

Meacher urges MPs' gesture of solidarity with strikers

Labour set up fighting fund to aid seamen

● Labour leaders, in a gesture of solidarity, decided to set up a fighting fund to help strikers' families during the dispute with P&O

● To avoid the money going straight to court sequestrators it is to be paid into a special fund for the seamen and their families, not the seamen's union

● P&O rejected a peace formula by the National Union of Seamen and the TUC, indicating its willingness to let the dispute run its course

● A defiant Mr Sam McCuskie, the union's leader, vowed there would be no surrender in the widening dispute despite the sequestration order

By Philip Webster, Tim Jones and David Sapsed

Labour leaders last night threw their weight behind the striking seamen by deciding to set up a fighting fund to help their families during the dispute with P&O.

The Shadow Cabinet proposed the gesture of solidarity with the National Union of Seamen after it had received overwhelming backing at a meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party earlier in the day. It urged

all MPs to contribute the "maximum possible weekly amount" to a fund to alleviate hardship among seafarers' families.

The move was proposed by Mr Michael Meacher, shadow employment secretary, at yesterday's meeting of the PLP. He proposed a sum of between £5 and £10 a week. He had earlier received backing for the proposal from Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader.

To prevent the money going straight to the sequestrators it will go into a fund for the seamen and their families and not directly to the NUS.

The Labour move is likely to heighten the political tension in the dispute. Conservative MPs are expected to accuse Labour of action which could prolong a dispute causing hardship to the public.

P&O made it clear last night that it was prepared to see the dispute with the NUS through to the bitter end by rejecting out of hand a peace formula put forward by the union and the TUC.

Union officials were ordered out of their headquarters at Maritime House in London, south-west London, by High Court appointed sequestrators - other "independent" judges, presiding over the sequestration of the union's assets.

Mr Sam McCuskie, the union's general secretary, and the staff were evicted by sequestrators who on Tuesday had been ordered to seize the union's £2.8 million assets.

This resulted from a breach of a court order banning the NUS from interfering with the business of Sealink, which is not in dispute with the union.

When he addressed 500 pickets at Dover yesterday, a defiant Mr McCuskie said there would be no surrender in the widening dispute, in spite of the sequestration order and the £150,000 levies imposed on the union by Mr Justice Michael Davies, who said the action of the NUS was "the clearest possible case of deliberate attempted suicide".

Sealink still have a writ outstanding against Mr McCuskie and Mr Roger Wilkins, the union's deputy general secretary. If it is activated, both men could face possible imprisonment.

Mr McCuskie gave no indication yesterday that he was

in any mood to apologize to the High Court, as he appealed to all his members "for God's sake come and join us. This dispute has now become about the very basis of trade unionism in our country."

Leaving his headquarters yesterday after a three hour meeting with the sequestrators, Mr McCuskie said: "This is the last time I will come out of this building until we have purged our contempt of court. If necessary we will set up our headquarters by pitching camp on the common across the road."

Mr Christopher Erving, the union's legal advisor said: "He is in a deft stick. He has either got to go with his members or the law."

On each opportunity the strike has so far been raised in Parliament, Mrs Thatcher has underlined the right of the strike-breaking seamen to go to work "without let or hindrance."

But the Shadow Cabinet last night passed a motion backing the NUS in its "justified efforts" to ensure the safety of the travelling public and of seafarers by seeking to secure acceptable conditions of work and leave for crews. It said the

dispute was causing "grave financial difficulties for seafarers and their families" and called on the PLP to make arrangements immediately for contributions.

Although contributions will be voluntary Mr Meacher is hoping for a 100 per cent response. During previous disputes, notably the miners' strike, there have been arrangements whereby Labour MPs have contributed to funds for strikers and their families.

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Mr Michael Meacher, Opposition employment spokesman, who proposed a hardship fund for seamen, addresses pickets at Dover yesterday (Photograph: Denzil McNeelance)

43 left dead as Israelis pull out of Lebanon

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

All invading Israeli troops were pulled back from south Lebanon last night after a fierce battle with Hezbollah guerrillas left three soldiers and at least 40 of the Iranian-backed militia dead.

Another 17 soldiers were wounded, most of them slightly, in the morning attack to capture the hilltop village of Meidoun just north of the "security zone" which Israel controls inside the border.

According to an army statement Hezbollah had chased away all the villagers over the past year and converted Meidoun into a fortress, which it used as a base for launching attacks on positions manned by Israeli troops and the South Lebanon army.

Overnight, UN observers said more than 500 Israeli howitzer shells pounded into

the hilltop. At first light paratroopers were sent in to surround the area and cut off roads.

The few dozen houses appear to have been reduced to rubble by the bombardment.

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ment, but as Israeli troops advanced they came under fire from the village and from Lebanese army positions north of it. Helicopter gunships and an artillery barrage pounded Hezbollah and the Lebanese army, destroying artillery batteries and trucks mounted with anti-aircraft guns.

Israeli troops met resistance in the village, and there were reports of hand-to-hand fighting before it was captured. By then all the buildings had been virtually levelled.

The operation was a second phase in the 48-hour invasion which began on Tuesday with the encirclement of villages believed to have helped Palestinian commando units to infiltrate the border. That operation passed off peacefully.

From Meidoun the troops moved forward to within a mile of Syrian positions. The village of Ein El Tenniyeh and the Syrian controlled town of Machgharah were both shelled.

Meanwhile, in the occupied territories there was widespread violence during the day as Palestinians demonstrated and a general strike brought all commercial life to a standstill in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem.

Unrest spreads.....6
for "unofficial talks with Solidarity after the strike."

Mr Wales said that he was "happy to hold talks with anyone without preconditions", which was interpreted as meaning that he would not call for the strike to be ended before negotiations had begun.

In the wake of the news that Polish Catholic leaders were attempting to mediate in the dispute, Mr Wales was confident that the church would "take no sides".

He spent some hours talking with two Catholic mediators sent to Gdansk, Mr

shipyard had declared a sympathy strike earlier in the morning.

Inside the Lenin shipyard, Mr Lech Walesa responded to a call by Mr Zdzislaw Sadowski, the Deputy Prime Minister,

Tadeusz Mazowiecki and Mr Andrzej Wielowieyski. At the nearby church of St Brygida's, prayers were offered for the strikers preparing to spend a third night in the shipyard, sleeping on floors.

Students at Gdansk university and the polytechnic staged sympathy sit-ins yesterday. A similar protest action was planned for today in Warsaw.

WASHINGTON: President Reagan, in his first public remarks about the strikes in Poland, said yesterday: "We hope and pray that the Polish Government will hear the voice of the Polish people and that economic reform and recovery will soon begin."

(Moshin Ali writes.)

The Polish people have long been ready for it," he said, in an address on the relationship of human rights and economic progress to the National Strategy Forum in Chicago, Illinois.

The House will then consider amendments for 20 weeks, 22 weeks and finally 24 weeks.

If either the 20 week or 22 week amendments are passed, there will be no vote on the 24 week amendment.

The Speaker's ruling could be contested by Alton opponents, who were meeting last night to plan their strategy. Even if Mr Alton wins on the 20 or 22-week amendments, there will still be plenty of opportunities to stop his Bill.

If it fails to complete the report stage tomorrow it could fall for lack of time.

Highest alert at British bases as IRA bomb links emerge

From Richard Owen, Wegberg, and Michael Evans, Gutersloh, West Germany

The 70,000 British servicemen and their families in West Germany were placed under the highest "red alert" security yesterday as it emerged that this week's three terrorist incidents were linked and that the IRA is receiving "indispensable" assistance from West German terrorists.

As Princess Margaret paid a visit amid intense security to the British airmen who survived one of last Sunday's two IRA attacks on the Dutch-German border, Western military officials and West German police sources said they believed there was a direct link between the car bomb attack at Nieuw Bergen and the shooting at Roermond on Sunday and the bomb discovered on Tuesday at a British Army base at Bielefeld, more than 100 miles away in West Germany.

The two British police officers, one from the Special Branch and one from Scotland Yard, who have spent the past two days assisting Dutch police, finally established yesterday that the bomb used to murder two British airmen while they sat in their car outside a discotheque at Nieuw Bergen was an IRA device.

The two officers, one of whom specializes in IRA activities in Europe and the other in explosives, returned to Britain last night after providing their Dutch colleagues with detailed evidence.

"We are very sure now that the bomb was placed by the IRA," the Dutch police spokesman, Sergeant Harry Clabbers, said. He said the bomb had been placed under the airmen's car, but declined to give further details.

He said the British police officers had clearly established, after minute examination of both the car and the town hall square where the explosion occurred, that the car bomb closely resembled previous IRA attacks in Britain.

Dutch police yesterday briefly questioned Senior Aircrewman Andrew Kelly, who survived the Nieuw Bergen bombing, but said he was still unable to give much information.

But the police were able to question at length Senior Aircrewman Richard Garth, who survived the Roermond shooting, both before and after he had been briefly visited by Princess Margaret.

Police said the other surviving airmen, Senior Aircrewman Ian Lewis, whose foot has been amputated, would not be fit enough to answer questions for another two weeks. The Dutch police have questioned 200 witnesses so far about the two attacks, but

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A group of IRA sympathizers jeered the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh yesterday as they arrived in Sydney, with a breakdown in security allowing the group to within 3 ft of the royal couple's Rolls-Royce. But angry members of the crowd turned on the demonstrators who left the scene before police arrived....Page 6

they still have no description of any suspect.

"These are attacks on British army targets in West Germany and there seems to be an emerging pattern," one source said. "It is almost accidental that the first incidents were in Holland because the airmen had gone over the border to relax."

The sources said the bomb planted under an officer's car at Bielefeld, headquarters of the First British Army Corps, could have been put in place by, or with the help of, terrorists from West Germany's Red Army Faction, which officials said had developed "very close links" with the IRA.

Officials revealed that the Red Army Faction even names its "commando units" after "martyrs" of other European terrorist groups. One team is named after Patrick O'Hara, an IRA terrorist who died after staging a hunger strike in a Belfast prison.

Continued on page 22, col 2

French hostages freed

Paris (AFP) - The three French hostages held in Lebanon have been released, the French Interior Ministry announced here last night.

M Jean-Paul Kauffmann, M Marcel Caron and M Marcel Fontaine had been held in Lebanon by the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad group.

M Caron and M Fontaine, both diplomats, and M Kauffmann, a journalist, were kidnapped in 1983. The announcement was made here by M Charles Pasqua, the French Interior Minister.

Earlier, guards at the Summerland Hotel in Beirut reported seeing the hostages being handed over.

Syrian expelled, page 7

Another shipyard strikes

Gdansk tension stepped up

From Richard Bassett, Gdansk

The Polish authorities yesterday stepped up the level of tension around the Lenin shipyard here as the current wave of industrial unrest spread to another shipyard in the city, and a new strike was declared at a copper mine in Silesia.

For the second night running, riot police in Gdansk sealed off the Lenin shipyard, where 7,000 strikers are demanding recognition of the banned Solidarity trade union and pay rises.

Earlier hints by the Government indicated preparedness to open up some dialogue with Solidarity, which was officially dissolved in 1982 and has not since been recognized.

But the number of riot police deployed around the shipyard was estimated as being higher than on Tuesday, and they took up their positions an hour earlier.

The neighbouring Repair shipyard had declared a sympathy strike earlier in the morning.

Inside the Lenin shipyard, Mr Lech Walesa responded to a call by Mr Zdzislaw Sadowski, the Deputy Prime Minister,

Tadeusz Mazowiecki and Mr Andrzej Wielowieyski. At the nearby church of St Brygida's, prayers were offered for the strikers preparing to spend a third night in the shipyard, sleeping on floors.

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reading, many MPs backed it on the basis that the limit would be raised during the Bill's passage.

Mr Alton's opponents, led by Mr Andrew Mackay, Conservative MP for Berkshire East, believe there is substantial support for the 24-week option, which is also backed by the Prime Minister.

Mr Mackay has argued that, according to precedent, the House should consider amendments in descending order from the existing 28 weeks.

But the Speaker has said in a letter to MPs he has tabled amendments that he proposes to follow the precedent of taking amendments in the order in which they were tabled.

The House will first consider an amendment to reduce the limit to 26

Monopolies inquiry into Kuwait BP stake

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The Government has ordered a full Monopolies and Mergers Commission report into Kuwait's building of a 22 per cent stake in BP, Britain's biggest company, after the October stock market collapse.

It is understood also to be preparing to persuade Kuwait to reduce its holding to nearer 15 per cent and that Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al-Sabah, the Kuwait oil minister, who is in London, may be invited for talks this week with Lord

Young, the Trade and Industry Secretary.

This would be a reversal of the Government's free market policies, but BP is seen as being in a strategically important industry. A British company involved with an Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries member could also, it is felt, lead to problems over Britain's North Sea output policy, which Opec opposes.

Pressure on Kuwait, page 23

With Mr Alton's Bill due for its final stages in the Commons tomorrow, it emerged that Mr Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker, has decided to conduct the debate in a way which could mean that the proposal for a 24 week limit, around which Mr Alton's opponents have been mobilizing, is not voted upon.

The Alton campaign was also buoyed by the news that a coroner has asked Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, for permission to hold an

inquest into the case of a 21-week-old foetus which allegedly struggled for life for three hours after being aborted.

Mr Ian Morison, the coroner for North-east Cumbria, said in a letter to Mr Alton that after studying the police file on the case he had concluded that an inquest would be in the public interest.

In cases where there is no body the Home Secretary has to decide whether to direct that an inquest take place.

The Speaker has decided that the House should consider time limit amendments tomorrow in the order in which they were tabled. The Alton Bill would reduce the present legal limit of 28 weeks to the end of the seventeenth week of pregnancy.

Although it received a second

WIN £58,000

Portfolio

PLUS NEW Accumulator

● The Portfolio Accumulator fund stands at £58,000 - or there is the daily prize of £4,000 to be won. ● Yesterday's winner, page 3

INSIDE



THE TIMES RACING SERVICE

● Launched this week, The Times Racing Service is the most complete and authoritative of racing guides, providing all the up-to-the-minute information needed by racing followers. Details: page 39 Plus...

INGENUITY

● There are prizes worth more than £13,000 to be won with INGENUITY, a daily game devised to test your wits and wisdom. See page 11

IN PART 2

City rap

Three unit trust groups are criticized in a Department of Trade report into share dealings in Equity & General, the motor and financial services group....Page 23

Vital colleges

Higher education may play a larger part in our culture for the sake of industry. General appointments, 30-36

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Whitehall biased against women

Whitehall cannot yet offer women Civil Servants equal treatment, says a study published yesterday by the Office of the Minister for the Civil Service, which noted sexual harassment may be more widespread than assumed.

The report acknowledged the number of women in the top most government jobs is tiny: only one woman permanent secretary and 4 per cent of grades one to four — undersecretary and above — are women, the same as five years ago. There has been a slight increase in women executive officers.

Issuing the report, Mr Richard Luce affirmed the Government's commitment to tackling barriers to equality of opportunity. Those include, the report says, sexist attitudes — being tackled through training — and male-only references in departmental papers. Only the Department of Employment monitors sexual harassment complaints.

'Concern' for Harty

Russell Harty, the broadcaster, was last night unconscious and in a critical condition at St James's University Hospital, Leeds. Doctors said his condition was causing grave concern. Mr Harty, aged 53, was taken to hospital two days ago and transferred to St James's after specialists had diagnosed hepatitis and acute liver failure. He collapsed at his home in Giggleswick, north Yorkshire, on Monday evening.

Hepatitis hazard, page 16

Bid for radio channel

The Really Useful Group, which exploits the commercial rights to Andrew Lloyd Webber's musicals and employs Prince Edward, plans to bid for one of the three new national radio channels proposed by the Government. The company recorded profits of £2.97 million during the last six months of 1987, and has taken a 12½ per cent stake in Golden Rose Broadcasting, owned by Mr David Maker, former chief executive of the Preston-based Red Rose radio group.

Mr Tony Blackburn, an original Radio One disc jockeys, is leaving the BBC after 21 years to join Capital Radio.

Legion disease rise

Another four people, including two more BBC employees, may have contracted Legionnaires' disease in and around BBC headquarters at Broadcasting House in central London. A BBC Radio spokeswoman said last night that this brought the total number of confirmed and suspected cases to 26 in the outbreak, which began in mid-April. There have been five confirmed cases, including a BBC commissioner, and 17 suspected cases. The source of the disease is believed to have been a cooling tower on the roof of Broadcasting House, which has since been cleaned and disinfected. Local authority and health officials believe that the risk of further infection is negligible.

Letters man goes free

Stephen Parker, aged 54, a printer, was acquitted by a jury yesterday of six charges of threatening to kill Mrs Lynda Chalker, a Minister of State at the Foreign Office, in a series of "poison-pen" letters. Southwark Crown Court was told that several of the letters, sent between May 1, 1984 and May 28 last year, had strong sexual overtones. Judge Butler, QC, ordered that Mr Parker be bound over for two years in the sum of £500. He said: "You accept that you wrote these letters and in fact you apologized during the trial for writing them. If you write that kind of letter again it may be that you find yourself in breach of that order."

Budd prosecution

Mr Norris McWhirter, chairman of the Freedom Association, will discover today if his attempt to have international athletic officials charged with blackmail over the Zola Budd affair succeeds. He is trying to launch a private prosecution over the recommendation that she be suspended for a year. After a hearing at Marlborough Street, central London, yesterday Mr Jeremy Connor, the magistrate adjourned to consider whether he should issue criminal summonses under the Theft Act, 1958.

Prince persuades council to think again

By Alan Hamilton

The Prince of Wales, scourge of modern architecture, has successfully intervened for a second time in a proposal to build a block of what would be among the most expensive flats in the country close to his home at Kensington Palace.

Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council has referred back, for further discussion, a planning application by Regalian Properties, a leading London property developer, to build a nine-storey block of 21 luxurious flats in Palace Green, Kensington, on a site in the next street to the Prince's London home.

The council's planning committee made the decision after receiving a

letter from the Prince's office taking issue with some of the architectural details and objecting to "over development" of the two thirds of an acre site.

The letter, signed by Mr David Wright, the Prince's recently-appointed deputy private secretary, but bearing the hallmarks of his master's voice, complains of the "unrelenting horizontality" of the facade facing the palace, and says that "the alteration to the fenestration seems to add to the horizontality".

It continues by saying that changes to the proposed roofline, "paring away the mansard to expose plane-glass penthouse windows", are unfortunate, and adds that a proposed tower at the north end of the block

"introduces an unwelcome element of asymmetry". A strong central feature would be preferred.

When the scheme last came before the planning committee, earlier this year, a letter from the palace objected on the grounds that the flats would overlook the palace and would be an intrusion of privacy. The latest letter, however, makes no mention of such intrusion.

Planning officials at Kensington town hall had recommended approval of the revised development scheme, but the planning committee was not satisfied. Councillor Simon Orr-Ewing, the committee chairman, said yesterday that the committee agreed with many of the points made by the Prince's office, and had sent the plans

back for further revision. "Had those representations come from any near neighbour, we would have certainly taken them into account", Mr Orr-Ewing said.

The proposed flats, which if built are expected to sell for between £2.5 million and £6 million, are on the site of the old Kensington Palace Baracks, near the corner of Kensington High Street and Palace Green. They are partly obscured from the palace by the Romanian Embassy. The site was formerly owned by the Crown Estate Commissioners, who sold it to Regalian last year for £20 million.

Before selling it the commissioners obtained planning permission for a block of 41 flats on the site but the scheme was not as high as the present

Howe calls BBC about programme on Gibraltar

By Richard Ford and Richard Evans

The Government was involved in a new dispute with broadcasters last night about the planned screening of a second programme about the controversial SAS shooting of three Provisional IRA terrorists in Gibraltar.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, yesterday telephoned Mr Marmaduke Hussey, chairman of the BBC, to voice government concern that *Spotlight*, produced by BBC Northern Ireland, could prejudice the inquiry into the deaths of the IRA trio by interviewing potential witnesses.

The thirty minute programme is due to be shown this evening. The team working on the documentary have interviewed a new witness who is understood to believe the SAS "could have taken the terrorists alive".

Information gathered by the programme makers also lends credence to evidence given by witnesses in Thames Television's *Death on the Rock* documentary that the SAS kept shooting when the IRA trio were on the ground.

Prepared during the past six weeks for the weekly current affairs slot, the programme is believed to conclude that the SAS bungled their attempt to apprehend the IRA trio by moving in too soon.

A "rough cut" of the documentary was viewed last night by Mr Andy Colman, editor of *Spotlight*, Mr John Conway, editor news and current af-

fairs, and Mr Arwel Ellis Owen, head of programmes for BBC Northern Ireland.

A final decision on whether it should be screened in its present form will not be taken until this morning. Dr Colin Morris, controller BBC Northern Ireland, will have the final say.

Mr Michael Checkland, the BBC director general, was being kept informed of developments and both he and Mr Hussey will almost certainly be closely involved in the decision.

Mr Hussey said last night: "I pointed out to the Foreign Secretary that programme making matters must be dealt with by the director general who is now considering the matter with Northern Ireland management. Once full information is available, he or I will be able to respond to the Foreign Secretary."

The latest dispute over a programme about the deaths of Sean Savage, Daniel McCann, and Mairead Farrell, who were killed on "active service", is likely to fuel further suspicions about the manner in which they were killed.

Government officials admit they have no powers to prevent the broadcast.

Mr John Gorst, chairman of the Conservative backbench committee on the media, said the BBC was fuelling the suspicion that the media is not acting responsibly.

Lost wife kidnap fear



By Andrew Morgan

Police in Dublin were last night investigating the possibility that the IRA has kidnapped the wife of a wealthy property developer and their son after they failed to return from a riding trip on Tuesday.

The horses of Mrs Linda Kavanagh, aged 38, and the son pair, Miss Priscilla Clarke,

aged 25, were found wandering on the roadside after the couple had set out on a ride near their home close to Enniskerry, Co Wicklow.

However, the Garda is also examining the option that the riders drowned after falling off their horses while crossing the River Dargle, which was said to have been swollen with flood water.

Garda diving units and helicopter volunteers were involved in the search.

Mrs Kavanagh's husband, Mr Mark Kavanagh, aged 42, heads a consortium which has a £250 million contract to construct a new financial services centre in Dublin. He also has financial interests in the United States.

Managers changing attitudes to unions

By Roland Radt

British managers, driven by fierce competitive pressures, are increasingly changing working practices and questioning the basis of trade union recognition, the 1987 report of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service says. The report also shows:

● Growing emphasis on flexibility has led to an increase in disputes which led to 899 stoppages last year involving 857,400 employees and 3,476,000 lost working days. The bulk of the disputes occurred in the public sector where union density remains high.

● Secret ballots before industrial action are now firmly established. Ninety per cent of the 280 strike ballots resulted in a majority in favour of action, although only 10 per cent were actually activated, indicating that most unionists vote for action as a negotiating ploy rather than out of any desire to take immediate action.

● The number of employees belonging to trade unions is down from 55 per cent in 1979 to around 40 per cent now.

● Union recruitment is proving more and more difficult in new industries where some estimates put union membership no higher than 15 per cent.

Mr Douglas Smith, ACAS chairman, said that in the main management and trade unions have agreed to negotiate the changes in working practices. But in other circumstances, such as in the Ford dispute and in the current ferry dispute, the pressure to improve the company's performance led to conflict and strike action.

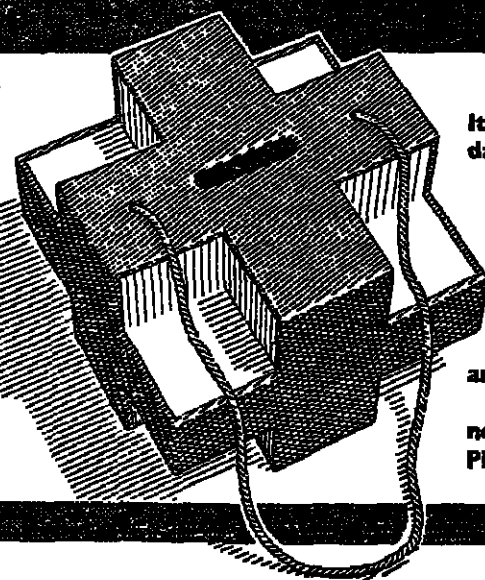
The report says that during 1987 many unions undertook vigorous recruitment and recognition campaigns.

A number, particularly those which have become party to single-union agreements, also took steps to extend their traditional recruitment boundaries. In some cases, says ACAS, this led to friction with other unions.

During 1987, ACAS assistance was sought by one or more parties in no fewer than 149 disputes involving recognition issues, the report says.

The report goes on: "In general, however, unions continued to face difficulties in achieving recognition, particularly in those cases where they began from a relatively weak membership base. What is certainly clear is that there is a growing likelihood that where employers agree recognition it will be with only a single union."

SOMETIMES
EVEN
THE RED CROSS
NEEDS THE
KISS OF LIFE.



Every day, the British Red Cross is ready to save lives. It's also ready to provide community services like help at day centres for elderly and handicapped people.

And because it does so without regard to religion or political persuasion, it is known for its impartiality and goodwill to everyone.

But goodwill alone can't save lives. To train a Red Cross volunteer costs money. Materials too, to help carry out their work, must be paid for.

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This week is Red Cross Week. Remember, if you ever need them you'll find they're never short of goodwill. Please use this week to show you aren't either.

BRITISH RED CROSS

Sunlight 'may play Aids role'

By Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent

Startling evidence which suggests that sunlight could play an important role in activating the Aids virus is published by an international team of researchers today.

Scientists in the United States and Belgium found in laboratory tests that exposing the virus to ultraviolet light speeds up crucial changes.

However, further studies will be necessary before a direct link between exposure to sunshine and progression from latent infection to illness can be proven.

The researchers, from the molecular genetics and cellular biology departments of the Smith, Kline and French pharmaceutical company, report their work in *Nature*.

The tests showed that changes in the virus could be accelerated by up to 150 times. They also tested direct exposure to the sun on the virus, and found similar, but much slower, rates of change.

Top post for legal 'novice'

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs
Correspondent

The man appointed to head the Legal Aid Board, which will administer the £450-million-a-year legal aid scheme, confessed yesterday to being an "ignoramus" about the law and legal services.

Mr John Pitts, aged 62, who retired in October after 10 years as chairman and chief executive of the Tioxide Group, said: "I am briefing myself at a great rate. I feel like a goose in the Dordogne, busy making fois gras, being stuffed with information."

His five-year appointment has clearly been made on the basis of his management experience and his success as an administrator. Before Tioxide, which makes titanium oxide, Mr Pitts was with ICI for 24 years, during which he was director of two divisions.

He saw his task as securing "maximum efficiency in the use of the resources available". As in business, it was important to "supply goods and services of high quality".



Mr John Pitts: "learning".

"If you do not, you are not doing right by the consumer and the client. And in the case of the Legal Aid Board, you are not doing right by the people at whom legal services are being directed and by the lawyers who provide those services."

"You should also ensure efficiency and do right by the proprietors, the shareholders, or in this case, the taxpayer."

Mr Pitts, a Yorkshireman, served as a sub-lieutenant in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and took a physics

degree at Bristol University. He first wants to ensure the smooth transfer of the administration of the scheme from the Law Society.

It was too early to detail the priorities of the Legal Aid Board, Mr Pitts said, although he added: "It will be very much concerned to ensure legal aid is reaching the right people and with the whole way legal aid functions, both in terms of the day to day discharging of functions and the effect of that on the delivery of legal services to the parts of the society at which it is aimed."

The board chairman's job was to implement government policy. If that policy was unsuccessful he would "advise the Government accordingly".

Mr Pitts will be paid £18,000 and the 11 other board members, also announced by the Lord Chancellor yesterday, £12,000 each. The board is likely to meet at least monthly and its members to work two days a week. *Parliament, page 10*

Ban on noisy foreign jets postponed

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

A shortage of new quiet jets and engine "hush kits" has forced the Department of Transport to lift its ban on noisy foreign aircraft from flying into Heathrow and Gatwick.

The ban, which came into force on January 1, was designed to prevent noisy aircraft from disturbing local communities near the airports.

Many of the foreign airlines flying old aircraft, such as Boeing 707s or DC8s, were unable to get early delivery of the new quiet jets and have been given special dispensation of up to a year to continue to operate the noisy aircraft.

The problem had been predicted by the International Air Transport Association which lobbied hard against its blanket introduction because, it said, it would hit poor countries who could not afford new equipment.

Britain, together with most

A medical student whose kite flying antics forced 40 jumbo jets to divert from their flight paths said he was "sorry" yesterday.

Plymouth Joggis, aged 20, a Manchester University medical student, caused a major alert on Monday when his kite

soared more than 200ft into the sky and was seen by a pilot. He had no idea he had caused so much trouble until police arrived at his parents' home at Laburnum Grove, Hoenslow, west London. Mr Joggis could be fined up to £2,000 or spend two years in jail.

other developed nations, went ahead with the ban and is now having to grant special permission for the jets to fly in. So far nearly 50 applications for special exemption have been refused but many others have been granted, provided the airline can prove it has quieter aircraft on order, or that its flights are only temporary.

Jets belonging to airlines in Nigeria, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Lebanon, Gambia or Sudan, have been granted special "one-off" permission to land, as the airline has claimed engine hush kits were unavailable.

It is forecast that world airlines will have to replace at

least 750 aircraft which do not comply with the regulations and although the big airlines have done so Third World nations are still struggling to do so.

"Hush kits are not easy to come by and a small airline can wait for anything up to five years to buy a new quiet jet", a spokesman for IATA said. "We feel sorry for some of the airlines who are trying to maintain links with the outside world and facing the most horrendous financial problems. They find it hard to see the logic of having to spend millions of dollars on new aircraft to keep residents near airports in the affluent developed countries

happy instead of providing vital equipment, medicines or infrastructure for their own country."

Most of the countries have now accepted the inevitable, and have placed orders for the new quiet jets or undertaken to lease them from the rapidly expanding aircraft rental companies.

Among the exemptions granted by the Department of Transport were two flights by the Saudi royal flight and one by the royal Brunei for "diplomatic reasons".

London City airport has attracted its first foreign airline, from The Netherlands. City Wings plans to begin regular scheduled flights from Rotterdam in July and extend its operations in September to include Amsterdam.

Life sentences for two PCs who beat man to death in cell

By Michael Hornell

Two policemen were sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday for beating a former Welsh Guardsman to death in a police cell.

Their victim had a reputation for being a "hard case" and the two officers wanted to teach him a lesson after an incident in a public house, Liverpool Crown Court was told. The prosecution described the murder as "cowardly and brutal".

The jury retired for nearly five hours before finding Police Constable Hamish Montgomery, aged 33, and Police Constable Patrick Shevlin, aged 27, guilty at the end of a 13-day trial.

It is believed to be the first time serving police officers have been sentenced to life imprisonment for murder. It is understood that both officers are considering whether to appeal against conviction and sentence.

They will meanwhile face formal disciplinary action, which may also be taken against other police officers involved in the case.

There could also be a review of the Lancashire force's orders for dealing with unruly prisoners.

During the trial, several police officers were shown to have lied.

Asked if any other officers could face criminal charges or disciplinary proceedings, Mr Mike Prunty, deputy chief

constable of Lancashire, said: "There are a number of aspects arising out of the trial which have to be closely considered to see whether there is a need for further inquiries to be undertaken. The papers in this case now have to be referred to the police authority and they will decide on any question of police disciplinary action."

The court was told that Shevlin and Montgomery caused truncheon blows on Mr Owen Roberts, aged 24, of Rowan Place, Lancaster, at Morecambe police station where he was taken after a violent struggle with a group of officers, including the two accused.

The police had been called to the Blue Anchor, Lancaster, on June 5 last year after Mr Roberts, who was drunk, had punched the landlord.

Cheers broke out among relatives and friends of the dead man and there was a shout of "justice" as the verdicts were returned.

The dead man's mother, Mrs Eliza Carruthers, broke down and wept. Later she said: "I am glad justice has been done. I thought there was going to be a whitewash, but there has not been. I am grateful for the way it has been handled."

Mr Justice McNeill told the two officers: "Each of you know full well that the sentence for the offence of which

you have been convicted by the jury is laid down by law. It is the only sentence I can pass upon you."

The prosecution said Montgomery, of Eastcliffe, Cloughton, Lancaster, and Shevlin, of Poulton Street, Preston, acted together in a "cowardly and brutal" manner.

Montgomery and Shevlin claimed that when the police van doors were opened at Morecambe, Mr Roberts was lying on his face. They said they had to drag him into the police station. They said they put him in a cell and left after locking the door.

But neither could explain how fibres from the dead man's shirt had been found on Shevlin's shoe and Montgomery's truncheon.

Other police officers saw Montgomery and Shevlin strike Mr Roberts continually with their truncheons. When he was in the cell a colleague heard thuds "as if Roberts was getting another good pasting."

Mr Rhys Davies, QC, for the prosecution, said at the start of the trial: "It was a deliberate, violent and prolonged attack by these two men acting together in a cowardly and brutal manner. Because of his reputation as a hard man he was being taught a lesson that he would never forget."

Both accused had denied in court striking the dead man.

Youngest singers at 'bicentennial' proms



Southend Boys Choir, aged between nine and 11, the youngest performers for a Prom, rehearsing at the Albert Hall

(Photograph: Tim Bishop)

By Andrew Billen

A performance by the late composer Percy Grainger is a feature of this year's Henry Wood Promenade Concerts staged by the BBC. During the last-night programme the audience at the Albert Hall and television viewers will see a piano keyboard respond to the notes Grainger played in an eccentric performance in 1921 of Grieg's Piano Concerto. It was recorded on piano roll.

Mr John Drummond, controller of BBC Radio 3 and director of the Proms, has decided the performance fits one of the themes, Australia's bicentennial, of this year's concerts. Grainger, who died in 1961, was Australian. The piece will be conducted on September 17 by Andrew Davis.

The bicentennial will also be marked by a return visit of the Australian Youth Orchestra, conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras, and the London debut of the

Sydney-based group, Fiederman, performing an evening concert of Australian composers' work.

Mr Drummond announced yesterday that the eight-week Prom season, the 94th, would feature a record 69 concerts.

Leonard Bernstein, who made his Proms debut last summer, is returning to conduct his Songfest, written for the bicentennial of the United States.

Voucher scheme, page 20

Curb on consultants who abuse NHS

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

A system to curtail consultants who abuse their NHS contracts by doing excessive private work is likely to be introduced by the Government this year.

After talks with the British Medical Association, the Department of Health and Social Security has agreed to support review machinery under which doctors will face a committee of consultants if they fail to put in sufficient hours on NHS work.

Mr Paddy Ross, chairman of the BMA's consultants' committee, said the Government had agreed in principle to include the new machinery in an overhaul of disciplinary procedures to be announced this year.

The BMA has also agreed, at the request of Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Social Services, to carry out a survey of the hours worked by all consultants working in the NHS. "Mr Moore accepted that a majority of consultants works their fair share but he wanted evidence from us," Mr Ross said.

Under the BMA's scheme, a standing committee of "four iron men" will be set up in each of the country's 192 districts.

A cut-price private surgery insurance scheme to attract two million young and elderly subscribers was launched by BUPA yesterday. The scheme designed mainly for the under-30s and the over-65s is aimed at those who have to wait longest for an NHS operation. Premiums, some of which are half the existing BUPA rates, cover hernias, varicose veins, joint replacements, tonsillectomies, cataract removals, sterilisation and cardiac surgery.

The four, all consultants, will probably comprise the chairman of the hospital medical staff committee, a full and a part-time consultant and one ad hoc member. The membership would shift if a consultant on the committee or someone from his department was the subject of the complaint.

Under the system, junior doctors will be able to complain if their seniors consistently fail to show up for a NHS session.

"The committee would first assess whether the allegation stood up. If it did

they would point out to the consultant that it might be advisable if he changed his work pattern and he would be reassessed in six months' time", Mr Ross said. If he refused to see the committee the matter would be referred to the regional medical officer.

Mr Ross emphasized that health authorities already had the powers to discipline, suspend or even dismiss consultants who were flagrantly abusing their contract. The purpose of the new committee would be to warn and monitor doctors at an earlier stage.

Apart from spending too much time on private work or the golf course, some consultants took on too much NHS work. Mr Ross said. Under existing contracts, a maximum part-time worker has to spend 35 hours a week on NHS work. Full time consultants are expected to work 38½ hours a week for the NHS.

Dr Royce Darnell, suspended as consultant microbiologist at the Royal Infirmary in Derby for six years on an annual salary of £30,000 for alleged laboratory mismanagement, was dismissed yesterday.

Prisoner unfairly dismissed

A woman given notice by her employer while serving a prison sentence was unfairly dismissed, an industrial tribunal ruled yesterday.

Mrs Elizabeth Pettit, aged 32, was jailed for nine months after a trial in which her lover admitted attempting to murder her husband. Mrs Pettit was an analyst at the top secret Marconi Underwater Systems defence establishment at Watercrouse, near Portsmouth, Hampshire.

She was convicted of preventing her lover's arrest and served half the sentence. At yesterday's hearing in Southampton Mr Michael Rich, tribunal chairman, said: "When the company terminated the job, it did not anticipate the length of absence."

"This was a specialist job, the possibility of finding a replacement in time to make it practical, before she could

resume, renders such action nonsense."

Last November, Winchester Crown Court was told that Mrs Pettit and Malcolm Brown, aged 40, plotted to kill her husband, Lieutenant-Commander Ian Pettit, aged 32, at their home in Denmead, Hampshire.

Lieutenant-Commander Pettit was bludgeoned on the head by Brown, and nearly died from a fractured skull. Brown was jailed for seven years.

Yesterday, Mrs Pettit told the tribunal: "I felt it made it as plain as possible it (the absence) would be for four and a half months. I don't think it was simply a matter of being unable to attend work for four and a half months. It was largely for the reason of absence."

Mr David Hamersley, Marconi unit personnel manager, said it was decided that

since it would take nine months before a trial, the best course was to terminate Mrs Pettit's employment.

She appealed, and after a petition for her reinstatement by colleagues, was given her job back. After the crown court trial, Mr Hamersley said, Marconi came to the conclusion that Mrs Pettit should be replaced, and she was sent a letter of dismissal.

Mrs Pettit, asked by her solicitor, Mr Howard Patchell, if she thought an employee would have been dismissed if absent for four and a half months through illness, replied: "No."

Mr Patchell asked Mr Hamersley if Marconi had sought legal advice on the likely length of Mrs Pettit's sentence. Mr Hamersley said it had not.

Marconi and Mrs Pettit, who now has a better-paid job and lives in Gwent, agreed to undisclosed compensation.

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator Win will be spent on a car

The sole winner of the daily Portfolio prize of £4,000 is a teacher of religious studies at a girls' independent school who plans to spend her windfall on a car.

Mrs Sylvia Fox, aged 53, of Littleover Lane, Derby, said: "This will be extremely useful as I am in need of a new car after my old one was written off in March by a runaway car which crashed into my garden."

She said she had been taking part in the competition since it began.



Mrs Sylvia Fox

Officials used office as agency

By Craig Selous

Two senior officials of Birmingham City Council were dismissed yesterday after an investigation into claims that they ran a model and escort agency from the treasurer's department.

Mr Bryan Jackson, aged 48, a project supplies officer, and Mr Tom Doherty, aged 43, an accountant, had been suspended on full pay pending a disciplinary hearing.

They were accused of using council time and telephones to run a private business offering model girls for promotions and as escorts for businessmen visiting Birmingham.

Calling cards issued by the agency gave a telephone number inside the treasurer's department.

Council officials became suspicious after calls were detected on a computerized monitoring system.

Mr Jackson is a former president of the National and Local Government Officers' Association and worked for the council for 21 years.

Mr Bernard Farrar, the city treasurer, said yesterday that the men had been dismissed for "gross misconduct".

Neither Mr Jackson nor Mr Doherty was available for comment yesterday.

Drink-drive insurance perk

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

The "perk" of a company car is worth hundreds of pounds a year for drivers regarding their driving licence after a drink drive conviction. Most company car drivers are given back their cars after being suspended, in contrast to private motorists who face big increases in insurance premiums for several years.

The company executive can expect to return to a car of similar status, yet the private motorist may be forced to buy a cheaper and less prestigious model because of the much higher insurance premium.

The Government has warned motorists in its drink-drive campaigns about the much higher insurance premiums for convicted drivers with the slogan: "Higher insurance: an even bigger blow."

The Consumers' Association magazine *Which?* yesterday supported the call for an increase in the legal minimum tread depth for car tyres.

The Government is firmly opposed to a proposed EEC directive for a 1.6 mm minimum tyre depth and believes changing from the present British requirement of 1 mm of tread across 75 per cent of the tread width would cost motorists an extra £70 million a year.

Which? says that for safer tyre regulations "less than 24 per cent per year seems a very small price to pay". The Consumers' Association also wants the tread wear indicators, which are moulded into some tyre treads, to be adopted as standard.

The Consumers' Association said yesterday that although the Education Reform Bill will give parents more rights if it becomes law, they are not making the most of the ones they already have. More

than half the parents questioned thought teachers should be left to get on with their jobs without parental interference. The one right that nearly every parent wanted, but did not have, was the right to see their child's school record.

Queuing is people's pet Post Office hate, according to a survey published in *Which?* It found that six out of 10 people who used main Post Offices were dissatisfied with the time spent queuing.

The anomaly arises because the insurance industry views the private motorist as an individual risk while a fleet of cars is judged as a shared risk where the main consideration is the cost of the total claims from the company.

A company will not face any increase in insurance premium if the convicted driver is accident-free.

A drink drive conviction for an executive aged 45 with a previously clean licence could

mean doubling the cost of privately insuring a Jaguar to £1281 a year.

One leading merchant bank emphasized last night that executives were not automatically reinstated in the type of car they drove before a drink-drive conviction. ICI confirmed that there is no discrimination against employees who have had their licences suspended.

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Dog ban rule upsets seaside residents

By Ruth Gledhill

A campaign to be launched today to persuade more seaside resorts to clean their beaches has upset dog owners.

Two beaches in Scotland, which won Blue Flags last year from the Tiny Britain Group for their high standards of cleanliness and management, this year failed to qualify for the contest because of a sudden change in the rules, banning dogs from beaches during the holiday season.

One of the resorts said the award the previous year had been unexpected and they were unaware that they had even had to apply this year.

The beaches, in Fraserburgh, Grampian, and Carnoustie, Tayside, were not eligible to enter the contest because they have no regulations which ban dogs.

To qualify for the 1988 flag contest, for which judging starts today, a beach must

be regularly used by large numbers of people and be managed by its owners.

It should be free of industrial or sewage pollution and litter, have first aid and life-saving equipment, have public telephones, be cleaned regularly and supplied with litter bins.

The extra rule this year to ban dogs during the holiday season was criticized yesterday by the two eliminated Scottish resorts as impractical.

"It would be virtually impossible to keep dogs off the beach", Dr Kenneth Browne, secretary of the Carmoestie Community Council, said.

"I do not think anyone can really be serious about a ban on dogs."

Mr Ian Webster, assistant director of environmental health with the local council, said: "It is a tradition that

owners are allowed to exercise their dogs on the beach.

"The councillors thought the blue flag was a very good thing to get last year. I presume they would hope to maintain the same standards this year, and would expect the flag to apply to other beaches as well."

Mr Douglas Miller, director of environmental health for Banff and Buchan District Council, which manages the Fraserburgh beach, said: "We assumed the rules would be the same as last year. We have never banned dogs."

"I do not really think that would be reasonable."

A total of 31 beaches have entered the contest. Results will be announced later this summer, after visits to each beach by inspectors.

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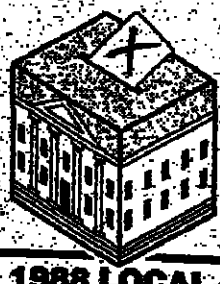
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A town of different parts where the Tories look safe

By Craig Selam



1988 LOCAL ELECTIONS

Solihull is a town of different parts. It is often described as Birmingham's stockbroker belt, but its image has become synonymous with blue-collar workers.

Conservative. In fact, it is now the only one of the 36 metropolitan district councils with an overall Tory majority.

The town has a fair share of affluent voters whose large, detached houses can be found in tree-lined avenues in the south of the old county borough or attractive villages in outlying rural areas.

But its support derives as much from the blue and white collar workers occupying thousands of neat semi-detached houses in the borough.

And the northern part, where council estates were built to house Birmingham overspill in the 1960s and 1970s, gives the Labour Party the bedrock of its support.

For all its different parts, it remains one of the Government's favourite boroughs. Significantly, it was chosen for the country's first city technology college, which will open in September, for children aged 11 and upwards.

Good education has always been a dominant theme of the town, where a few years ago plans were mooted to reintroduce selection. Now middle class newcomers are drawn to live in the catchment area of two noted comprehensives.

Mr Bob Meacham, leader of the Conservative group on Solihull Borough Council, said the party still had to work hard for votes.

"People think Solihull is 100 per cent Conservative, but our overall majority is only five, the lowest it has ever been so I would not want to lose any seats."

"I am tired of the stockbroker belt label because it is so inaccurate. We are to a certain extent a residential dormitory area

District profile: Solihull

of Birmingham, but there are plenty of small and semi-detached houses. On average it is a relatively comfortable middle class area."

People forget, he said, that Land-Rover had its plant there, employing more than 6,000 people, and that many other local people depended on jobs in manufacturing in the West Midlands, which had been badly hit by the recession.

But, few believe the Conservative Party will lose overall control. It has 28 of the council's 51 seats, double those held by Labour, but there are three Social and Liberal Democrats and six independents, the majority linked to a ratepayers' association which constantly harries the Conservatives over spending.

Nine of the 17 seats being contested are held by the Conservatives.

Mr Meacham, who runs his own industrial lighting business, believes his

party might gain up to four seats and lose two.

There is concern that the community charge will cost some middle class votes and that social security and housing benefit changes will strengthen Labour's vote in the north.

But, Conservatives believe that tax cuts benefiting the large proportion of professional and managerial staff living there and the improving West Midlands economy will help the party.

The community charge will replace a district rate which, at an average of £200.15, is the lowest of the 36 metropolitan districts.

This year there was no increase in the district rate. Last year it even fell slightly and ratepayers have become accustomed to the financial prudence of their council.

Mr Meacham said the proposed community charge for Solihull would have been low, at £168, but for the Government's plan for a maximum addition of £75 for four years to compensate "for those people who were unfortunate enough to vote for high-spending councils".

"It has been raised on the doorstep and it might well lose us some votes, but I do not think it will lose us any seats."

Solihull's prosperity was improving with the economy, he said. It was rapidly developing a commercial base, including business based on the National Exhibition Centre, near by, and house prices, already soaring, are expected to rise further when the M40 Oxford to Birmingham link is completed.

The council has also satisfied many villagers in the east of the borough by opposing plans for a £400 million superpit which they feared would damage the environment.

The Labour Party believes its support will be strengthened on the council estates in the north as a result of the Government's social security and housing benefit changes and that some traditional Tories are worried about the community charge.

It has also given a warning that the new city technology college will cream off the borough's brightest pupils, to the detriment of local schools.

Result will be pointer to poll tax acceptance

By David Walker

Today's district council elections, after a campaign in which all parties have done their best to damp expectations, will give the clearest indication yet whether the Government's poll tax plans are vote winners or losers.

Mr Peter Brooke, the Conservative Party chairman, began the campaign last month claiming the Conservatives would make net gains among the 3,800 seats being contested. By the time of his final press conference on Tuesday this week, he was merely "quietly confident".

Labour, meanwhile, began in the odd position of trying to predict that it would lose seats while emphasizing that the election with which 1988 is best compared, 1984, was a peak of electoral performance.

It ended the campaign with Dr John Cunningham, its shadow Secretary of State for the Environment, predicting "consolidation" of a strong position.

The Social and Liberal Democrats have had to contend throughout the campaign with reports that their vote was in imminent danger of collapse. The Owenites, defending 13 seats, are only a few steps short of oblivion as a party with municipal pretensions.

According to party leaders in the metropolitan districts examined by *The Times*, poll tax is certainly a doorstep issue; the changes in the social security system equally have been a talking point.

The Conservatives, for whom reform of local government finance was meant to be a vote winner, have been thrown on to the defensive.

Labour's problem is that having warned the electorate of the dire threats contained in the poll tax, and engineered the publication yesterday of a new batch of poll tax estimates, it may find that the voters may grumble but not come out and mark their ballots in protest.

The Conservatives may convincingly claim tomorrow morning that the poll tax is empty as a vote turning issue.

Professor George Jones, of the London School of Economics, a tireless advocate of local democracy, said yesterday that in recent years people have been paying more and more attention to purely local issues in council elections.

However, the key to both turnout and voting preference today will be, in spite of Professor Jones, the public's general sense of economic wellbeing and the credit they give for that to the present incumbents at Westminster, not the town hall.

● The next projected poll tax payment figures for Surrey replace those which appeared in earlier editions of *The Times* yesterday. Those figures were omitted from later editions after the Labour Party issued a correction of the list, prepared by officials of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, which it published on Tuesday.

Projections from 1988-89 are given first in £ per adult, followed by the 1987-88 projections and the percentage change. Decrease is marked with a minus.

Elmbridge: 187, 238, -28; Epsom 218, 182, 17; Guildford 264, 160, 29; Mole Valley 171, 169, 1; Reigate 223, 183, 18; Runnymede 171, 151, 12; Spelthorpe 211, 179, 15; Surrey Heath 188, 140, 25; Tandridge 221, 173, 22; Waverley 208, 174, 16; Woking 170, 140, 18.

Claimants getting poor service at benefit office

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Appalling levels of service are being offered to the public by some local social security offices, the National Audit Office disclosed yesterday.

Benefit claimants had to wait hours to be seen; claims took days to be processed; payments were inaccurately assessed and little or nothing was done to make sure claimants knew all the benefits to which they were entitled. Many offices were housed in oppressive and inadequate buildings.

The worst offices were in London and the inner cities. The service provided for supplementary benefit claimants was inferior to that for contributory benefit claimants such as pensioners.

The report says that the Department of Health and Social Security was aware of widespread dissatisfaction with service at its 500 local offices back in 1984, and acknowledged serious problems.

However, "in general there was no evidence of any improvement since then". In some fields the service had deteriorated still further. In 1986 the Greater London Citizens' Advice Bureau claimed that administration of supplementary benefit in many London offices had "virtually collapsed".

Senior officials of the department are to appear before the Commons public accounts committee on May 16 and are certain to face fierce questioning on the report by the MPs.

The audit office commissioned a survey by Gallup as part of its investigation. That showed that a quarter of all claimants believed they received a poor service from their local social security offices, and nearly half supplementary benefit claimants - two million people - had problems with claims during the previous 12 months. Most aggrieved were the unemployed and single parents.

"In the NAO's view this level of dissatisfaction must give rise to concern," the report says.

The audit office investigation disclosed huge discrepancies in the time taken to clear claims for supplementary benefit, with some offices averaging two and a half days

and others 15 days. The number of claims taking more than 10 days had increased from 13 per cent to 21 per cent, or 1.5 million claims in four years.

The average time for dealing with supplementary benefit appeals was 21 days - six days above the national target - with a few offices taking a remarkable 62 days.

As many as a quarter of supplementary benefit claims were wrongly assessed in the worst offices, compared with 4.1 per cent in the best.

The Gallup survey showed that 37 per cent of all claimants had to wait 70 minutes to be dealt with, 21 per cent more than two hours, and 6 per cent more than four hours. The highest average waiting times were in north London and the inner cities, averaging 99 minutes and 95 minutes respectively.

The report says many offices are housed in "old and cramped accommodation and are densely unrelaxing and regimented". Officials of the department admitted that overcrowding led to agitation, vandalism and aggression and that 10 per cent of offices needed to be rehoused.

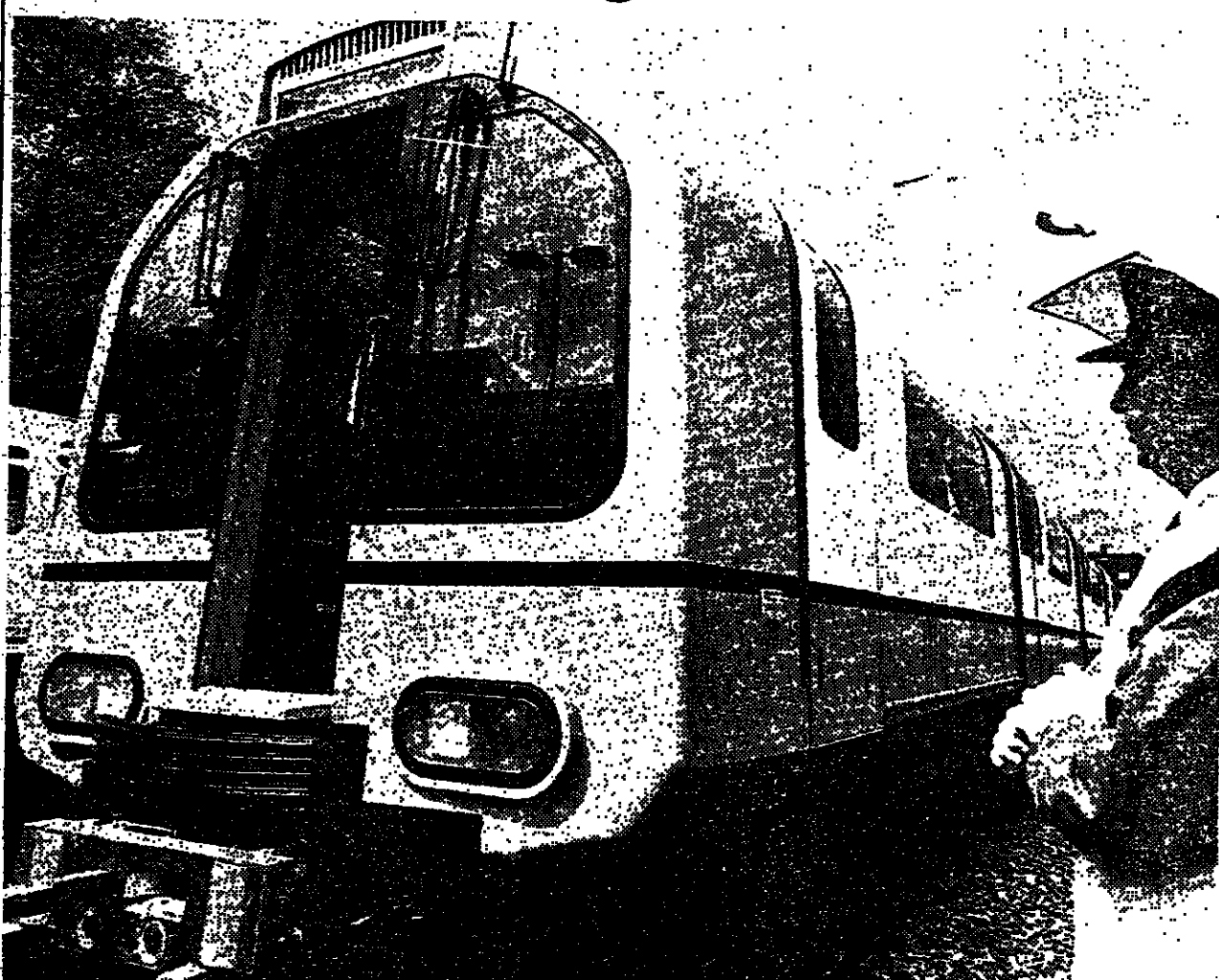
Supplementary benefit waiting areas were generally worse than those for contributory benefit claimants. Claimants complained about lack of privacy, facilities for children, and lavatories.

Significant numbers of low paid working families and needy pensioners were not claiming the full benefits for which they were eligible. Supplementary benefit worth £570 million and Family Income Supplement worth £55 million was not claimed in 1983-84.

However, while some offices actively encouraged the take-up of benefits, others did the bare minimum. A quarter of supplementary benefit claimants said they found it hard to get the information they needed from their local offices, and since 1983-84 Citizens' Advice Bureaux had experienced a 60 per cent increase in inquiries.

National Audit Office: DHSS: Quality of Service to the Public at Local Offices (Stationary Office: £4.30).

More standing room in Tube trains



Mr Brian Singleton, Stanmore's area manager, with the newest train to run on the Jubilee Line (Photograph: Bryn Colton).

By Rodney Cowton
Transport Correspondent

New prototype trains, which will come into regular use in the early 1990s, were beginning their first trials carrying fare paying passengers, Mr Tony Ridley, chairman and managing director of London Underground, said yesterday.

He understood the sad events of last November's fire and the lessons to be learnt from the King's Cross inquiry.

The Underground's shortcomings should be seen in the context of the many positive things they were doing, he said.

One of these is planning a £500 million modernization for the Central Line, involving the provision of about 75 new trains, and the installation of a new signalling system.

The train of the future will mean more passengers standing, with fewer seats than the 40 per carriage in existing rolling stock. There will also be 12 "perches".

London Underground claimed that this would provide more standing room, enabling 50 or more additional passengers per train to be carried. The trials are being carried out on the Jubilee Line, because signalling on the Central Line where the trains will eventually operate is unsuitable.

Artificial mind for private investors

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

A stocks and shares computer system designed to enable the private investor to take on City experts was launched in London yesterday.

The Intelligent Trading System (ITS), which was developed in the United States, is capable of analysing financial information and making decisions about when to sell, when to buy and what price to pay.

It exploits advances in artificial intelligence which enable computers to be given the skills of a human expert in a field such as finance. Its makers claim it will run on a home computer such as the Amstrad PC.

The ITS software enables the computer to call up financial databases by telephone and take in all the volume and price information about investments. Analysis of the information takes about 30 minutes, after which the computer gives its decisions.

Two former City-based technology experts have set up a new company, Financia, to bring the system to Europe.

Although a number of financial companies, particularly in the United States, have hired so-called "rocket scientists" to develop their own in-house expert systems, the results have been closely guarded secrets.

Mr Philip Berber, managing director of the company, said that he sees Financia's principal market for ITS as European brokers, traders and fund managers who do not have access to their own computerized advisers. He said private investors also appeared willing to pay £15,000 for the computer program.

"They see the system as the tool used by professionals and see the cost as an investment," he said. The system's performance had been "particularly impressive" during last October's crash, giving clear "down" signals.

"The Intelligent Trading System started selling and going short from around October 6. By the end of trading on October 19, the in-house portfolio was up 28.6 per cent on the day."

Johns work sells for £2.2m

SALEROOM

by Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

Jasper Johns became the most expensive artist alive when "Diver", a gigantic painting by him complete with real fork, knife and spoon, and the artist's own hand and footprints, sold for \$4.2 million (£2.2 million) at Christie's New York on Tuesday.

It was one of three world records at the best contemporary art sale Christie's has ever had.

"Diver", an oil on canvas painting on five panels, which has been included in every important exhibition of the artist's works during his 26 years of existence, is a compendium of the American artist's favourite themes. His bullseye motif, for example, and diver's hands (extending up, then plunging down) have appeared in other works, as have the impressions of the artist's person. Eating utensils also feature in his recent work.

The painting was sent for sale by a Connecticut collector, and bought anonymously within estimate.

There was also an impressive price for the grand master of action painting, Jackson Pollock, although not a record, when his "Number 31", a classic panorama of multicoloured dribbles fet-

ched \$3.5 million (£1.8 million).

Other records were for lesser known American artists such as Wayne Thiebaud, whose pop painting of "Heart Cakes" (two tea cakes made with white icing, and red hearts as decoration, on St Valentine's Day) sold for double its estimate at \$605,000 (£323,529) to the Californian trade.

Richard Estes's "Baby Doll Lounge", a photo-realistic oil painting of an American street scene with the above named premises in the centre, sold for \$550,000 (£294,117), \$100,000 above upper estimate, and a record for the artist.

The sale totalled \$18.2 million (£9.7 million), with all but 1 per cent sold.

The Andy Warhol sale is over. Sotheby's completed its 10-day auction of the pop artist's sprawling collection on Tuesday, totalling \$25.3 million (£13.5 million); more

than double the pre-sale estimate.

The last day marked a number of impressive prices. A series of five scribbled drawings by the German conceptual artist, Joseph Beuys, who like Warhol died recently, fetched \$121,000 (£64,706), six times over estimate, while a large photograph by and of the British "living sculptures" Gilbert & George sold for \$115,000 (£61,765) against an estimate of up to \$35,000.

Sotheby's also completed its two-part contemporary sale in New York on Tuesday, totalling \$4.8 million (£2.6 million) with 93 per cent sold.

Artefacts and documents from a time capsule, which rested for 70 years on the sea bed off Devon, are on show at Sotheby's Sussex, from Monday until May 21, before their sale there on May 26.

They include letters from Lord Kitchener and Lord Rosebery, Indian brassware and religious figures, and were discovered in 80 cases belonging to Lord Carmichael, Governor of Bengal, in the wreck of the liner, SS Medina, sunk by a German submarine in 1917.

£180m waste on roads upkeep

'Exotic' practices attacked

By David Walker

If the road-gritters were out, two things were likely. The council highway maintenance foreman was with the wife of a gritter driver in one area, and in another, the chargehand's dog had slipped on the ice.

In an investigation of highway maintenance by the Audit Commission which discovered that £180 million could be saved by local authorities, accountants uncovered those "scientific" reasons for sending out the salting lorries.

Presenting the commission's survey of local authority road maintenance, published today, its controller, Mr Howard Davies, would not name the councils concerned, but added those were not the only "exotic working practices" uncovered.

He said the commission's job was to identify possible savings, which he estimated at 16 per cent of spending on roads. Auditors were now carrying out follow-up studies for councillors to act upon.

Mr Davies added that the report was not a recipe for cuts in government grants. Only if the recently increased provision for road upkeep by the Department of Transport was

maintained was there a chance of averting serious disrepair. Spending per kilometre of local authority road in England dropped in real terms by 10 per cent during the ten years to 1986, in marked contrast to increased expenditure on motorway and trunk road repairs.

The commission's report is the first comprehensive survey of a matter which consistently ranks high among public anxieties about council services.

It begins: "Britain used to be well known for the quality of its minor roads. But in recent years, the balance has shifted. Central government has invested heavily in motorways and trunk roads, and less emphasis has been placed on the secondary roads maintained by local authorities."

One reason is that many councils do not know enough about their roads and verges and their state of repair. County councils maintain about 239,000 kilometres and London and metropolitan boroughs a further 49,000 kilometres; average maintenance bills are £9,100 per kilometre of A roads and £3,200 per kilometre of minor

road. Many simply patch road surfaces cheaply when complete resurfacing is required.

Mr Davies said: "The problem is that some councils are simply not spending enough and too many are spending the available money inefficiently."

The commission recommends:

● Repeal of Section 42 of the Highways Act, 1980 to remove the inefficient overlap between the responsibilities of county and shire district councils for minor roads.

● Minimum national standards, with guidelines on what repair and maintenance should cost each council.

● The Government maintain its annual allocation to councils of £1.1 billion for road maintenance for the foreseeable future.

● Councils should computerize their highways departments and spend in accordance with the state of roads rather than the previous year's budget.

● More work going to competitive tender.

Improving the Condition of Local Authority Roads. The National Picture (Stationary Office: £4.50).

Sellafield's safety tested in exercise

By Peter Davenport

Emergency procedures ordered in the wake of the Chernobyl disaster were put to their first test in an exercise at the Sellafield nuclear waste reprocessing plant in Cumbria yesterday.

The exercise, code-named Oscar II, was the biggest staged at the site, British Nuclear Fuels Ltd said.

Its main function was to test the effectiveness of an off-site centre for co-ordinating the response of emergency services and local authorities responsible for initiating radiation protection measures and an evacuation.

The centre is in a company hostel at Summergrove, nine miles north of Sellafield and, according to officials yesterday, far enough away to be safe in foreseeable circumstances.

In the exercise a pipe bridge which would be carrying highly radioactive liquid round the site was fractured by a falling crane, leading to a radiation leak. The exercise was witnessed by Mr Michael Spicer, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Energy.

Dr Roger Berry, director of health, safety and environ-

mental protection for British Nuclear Fuels, said: "It is a learning exercise for us. We do not expect to get it 100 per cent right the first time."

After the Chernobyl accident in the Soviet Union two years ago, the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, on instructions from the Government, devised a three-tier system of exercises to test emergency procedures.

Yesterday's incident was at Level Two. The Government's nuclear emergency briefing room in London was staffed.

It was the first test in England of the procedures. An exercise was held earlier this year at Torness nuclear power station in the Highland region.

A Level Three exercise, which also monitors the role of government departments and ministers, has yet to be staged.

Although representatives of all the agencies who would be involved in reacting to a big incident took part yesterday it was, in effect, a paper exercise with no turnout of police, fire or ambulance services and no full-scale evacuation of the site and areas near by.

MARKS & SPENCER

COT BUMPERS

In the light of recent publicity Marks & Spencer wish to assure customers that tape lengths on St. Michael cot bumpers now on sale are a maximum of 8 inches (20 cm) long.

As an extra safety precaution customers may wish to examine their cot bumper and shorten any longer tapes to this length.

Any customers still concerned about the safety of a bumper purchased from Marks & Spencer should contact their local store.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Angola talks end on positive note

Four-power talks in London on ending the Angolan civil war and settling the Namibia dispute ended yesterday on a more positive note than had been expected (Andrew McEwen writes). A follow-up meeting would be held in Africa in "weeks rather than months", one delegate said.

The 35 delegates, representing the United States, South Africa, Angola and Cuba issued a statement saying that "progress was made". Dr Chester Crocker, the US Assistant Secretary of State, said there was a substantial gap between the time-scale proposed by Angola and Cuba for a withdrawal of Cuban troops and Pretoria's demands. But he said the proposal amounted to an opening bid and there appeared to be a willingness on all sides to negotiate.

● LISBON: Angolan officials denied claims by Unita rebels yesterday that the two sides had held high-level talks.

Envoy kidnap alert

Bogotá — Security has been tightened for embassies and their staffs here by the Colombian Government after a wave of kidnappings of foreign diplomats by a pro-Cuban guerrilla group (Geoffrey Matthews writes).

In a series of actions on Tuesday, the left-wing National Liberation Army (ELN) kidnapped the press officer of the French Embassy and two Swiss executives of the Colombian-Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Bogotá, as well as West Germany's honorary consul in the cities of Medellín and Bucaramanga. Police foiled the kidnapping of the French Vice-Consul in Cali and the Panamanian Consul in Cartagena. In a statement ELN said those kidnapped would be released within a few days.

Nouméa clash feared

Sydney — French troops were last night put on full alert in the crisis stricken Pacific territory of New Caledonia after threats of terrorist attacks in the three days until the final round on Sunday of the French Presidential election (Christopher Morris writes). In Nouméa reinforcements joined the CRS riot squads, which now patrol the streets.

Right-wing activists warned of attacks against leaders of the Kanak separatists and a previously unheard of organization, the National Committee Against Independence, claimed responsibility for a grenade attack which destroyed the car of an official of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front.

Kabul delay attacked

Islamabad — With only 11 days to the start of the Afghanistan settlement under the terms of the Geneva accord, a Pakistan foreign ministry spokesman has accused the Kabul Government of doing little to prepare for the return of Afghan refugees and for the establishment of a broad-based government.

Siamese twin 'stable'

Johannesburg — Mphonyana Mthibela, the smaller of South Africa's black Siamese twins, both girls, who were separated on Tuesday had treatment yesterday for what was described as "superficial bleeding", but was said later to be in a stable condition (Michael Hornsby writes). Mphonyana's stronger twin sister, Mpho, to whom she was joined at the head, was said to be "doing well".

Marcos plea fails

Manila — At an emergency meeting yesterday the Philippines Government decided to send condolences but not to allow former President Ferdinand Marcos to return to the country for the funeral of his mother (A Correspondent writes). Mrs Josefa Edralin Marcos, aged 95, who remained in the Philippines due to illness after the Marcos family was expelled in 1986, died in a Manila hospital yesterday.

Iran-Saudi rift grows

As Iranian diplomats expelled from Saudi Arabia arrived home yesterday after the breaking of diplomatic relations, Tehran claimed that Saudi police had forcibly entered its embassies in Jeddah and Riyadh the previous day and seized diplomatic documents (Hafiz Teimourian writes). The Saudi Government immediately denied the allegations.

Jet deal approved

Bonn — West German participation in the European Fighter Aircraft, a joint project with Britain, Italy and Spain, passed the first parliamentary hurdle yesterday when it was approved by the Bundestag defence committee.

Gdansk unrest spreads amid compromise move

From Richard Bassett, Gdansk

The Government and the Solidarity union yesterday suggested minor compromises aimed at bringing about some form of dialogue in Poland's most serious industrial unrest since martial law.

At the same time, Poland's Roman Catholic bishops sent mediators to Gdansk and Nowa Huta where talks between management and striking workers have failed to resolve the disputes.

Mr Zdzisław Sadowski, the deputy Polish Prime Minister, and architect of the Government's unpopular economic reform, also took a less inflexible line when he said yesterday that he would be prepared to meet with Solidarity leaders but only on "an unofficial, informal basis".

This was seen as the beginning of a policy of compromise by the Government which has refused to recognize the Solidarity movement and

banned the union in 1981. Mr Lech Walesa, Solidarity leader, told strikers at Gdansk yesterday that he was prepared to step down from any negotiations if this would bring about a settlement to the four-day-old strike there.

The strikers at the Lenin Shipyard are demanding pay rises and recognition of Solidarity.

"Of course, someone does not want me to be at the negotiating table," Mr Walesa said, "but I am not fighting just for my own cause here."

His supporters cheered him as he greeted at the same time a delegation from the neighbouring Repair Shipyard which announced yesterday it was also going on strike.

Mr Walesa, who was speaking before attending his grandmother's funeral, rounded on a reporter from the official PAP news agency and accused the agency of distorting his

statements. "We want conciliation but there must be truth," he said. He added to tumultuous applause: "But if you continue lying, there will be no change."

The shipyard, where 7,000 workers have downed tools, was reminiscent of the days of Solidarity's birth there in 1980. The cordons laid by riot police on Tuesday night was withdrawn at 4am yesterday. Wives and children of the strikers passed through the gate — festooned with flowers and Solidarity banners — to join the men who were still wearing blue boiler suits and yellow helmets after spending a second night at the shipyard.

Earlier, Mr Walesa had joined the strikers to address them in his shirt sleeves. "I am prepared to end the strike immediately as I recognize that Poland is in a difficult economic situation but the authorities refuse to co-operate. I tried to see the

management this morning but I was banned from entering the premises by plain-clothes policemen. This is not a very courteous way to treat us," he said.

Asked if Soviet press criticism of the strikers yesterday had dampened his enthusiasm, he replied in his staccato way of speaking: "Those articles in Moscow were written months ago. They need to catch up."

Mr Walesa thought it unlikely the authorities would resort to force. "Tanks will not help the Polish economy nor will smashing these gates enable our country to catch up."

Outside the canteen, where Mr Walesa held impromptu news conferences, dozens of workers had fallen asleep over cups of tea. Those who had gathered at the gate were defiant although as food hampers and bags of milk were passed through the shipyard's railings, and

cigarettes were lobbed over the gates by the crowd outside, the mood was one of aggression.

"If necessary we will go on for months. All Poland is watching this shipyard to give a lead. The authorities eventually must agree to some form of negotiation," a young man, tired but relaxed, said.

But two other workers said they would return to work if they were offered pay rises, irrespective of the outcome on the issue of Solidarity.

On Tuesday night, the ruling Politburo sounded a conciliatory note saying it "understood the plight and grievances of many of the workers". The Government was "working towards more freedom in Poland" although it would "not tolerate any threat to public order".

Despite the intervention of the church yesterday it is now for General Jaruzelski's men to rise to the challenge of finding a solution.

Budget crisis sours victory for Dukakis

From Michael Binyon, Washington

After his landslide victories in Ohio and Indiana, Governor Michael Dukakis yesterday held urgent consultations with advisers in Massachusetts, where a budget crisis threatens to cast a shadow over his claim to have managed the state's economic miracle.

An unexpected shortfall of \$77 million (£41 million) in revenue has created a potential deficit, giving Mr Dukakis the unenviable choice of raising taxes or cutting spending on social services. State law does not allow Massachusetts to have a deficit.

Both Democrats and Republicans in the state have criticized Mr Dukakis's handling of the budget. A slowdown in the economy, which had been growing at the rate of 10 per cent, has already forced him to defer \$233 million in spending in the current financial year. His advisers have warned him that he now faces a further shortfall of \$40 million in 1989.

The issue has embarrassed Mr Dukakis just as he appears to be consolidating his lead in the Democratic presidential race. The Rev Jesse Jackson, challenged to produce details of his proposals, has turned the tables on his rival.

The issue is also sure to be trumpeted by Vice-President George Bush and the Republicans. It also gives ammunition to those who have criticized Mr Dukakis's long absences from Boston while on the campaign trail.

Mr Dukakis won impressively in the Mid-West on Tuesday, beating Mr Jackson by 70 to 22 per cent in Indiana and 63 to 27 per cent in Ohio. In the District of Columbia, however, Mr Jackson, as expected, won overwhelmingly.

The district is 70 per cent black, and Mr Jackson won 80 per cent of the vote. But his support among whites now appears to be in a decline. In Ohio, Mr Jackson won 17 per cent of the white vote and in Indiana he won only 13 per cent.

Mr Dukakis gained about 180 delegates in the three contests, giving him a commanding lead over Mr Jackson, with about 1,500, only 600 short of the 2,081 needed to win the Democratic nomination. Mr Jackson has about 920 delegates.

Mr Dukakis has also been picking up support from the caucus states as they move slowly from tier to tier in their selection process. He is also winning "super delegates" at a faster rate — party leaders and elected officials who will tip the balance at the convention in Atlanta.

With characteristic caution, Mr Dukakis said yesterday: "We're getting there. But we still have a long way to go, and obviously we've got to keep working." He has moved to broaden his base, drawing in the support of activists and staff of those Democrats who have dropped out of the race or suspended their campaigns, among them Mr Richard Moe, a senior adviser to Congressman Richard Gephardt, and Mr Kirk O'Donnell, director of the Centre for National Policy.

Mr Jackson, who has angrily rejected hints from his campaign manager and political advisers that he has now all but conceded defeat, has promised to stay in the race. But he is now expected to concentrate his time and up to \$3 million on the last and biggest primary, in California.

IRA protesters jeer Queen in Sydney



Protesters confronting the Queen in Sydney yesterday, but the incident failed to mar her enjoyment of a walkabout later.

Extra police after security lapse

From Christopher Morris, Sydney

A glaring security lapse allowed pro-IRA demonstrators to get within touching distance of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh yesterday as they arrived in Sydney.

Police chiefs and government officials watched helplessly from 100 yards away as a small group of Irish men and women in the crowd suddenly unfurled banners, waved placards and shouted abuse as the royal couple drove past in an open-top Rolls Royce.

"Murderers, murderers," they yelled. "British troops out of Ireland."

The Queen seemed unperturbed. The Duke, who had been waving to the crowd, frowned angrily in the direction of the protesters standing behind a barrier less than 3 ft away from the car.

The demonstrators incensed other people in the crowd. They intervened, trying to tear up the banners, and some blows were exchanged. Heavily outnumbered, the demonstrators left the area just before police arrived.

Extra police were immediately drafted into Darling Harbour in case of further trouble.

Visit of the Japanese Prime Minister

Pledge to West on role

By Andrew McEwen

Mr Noboru Takeshita, the Prime Minister of Japan, yesterday pledged his country's determination to strengthen its links with Europe and to take a much greater part in world affairs. He announced an "international co-operation initiative".

He said it was Japan's responsibility to play a diplomatic and financial role in helping to resolve regional conflicts, even though its constitution precluded any direct military involvement.

His speech in London was seen as a further step away from the introspection and lack of self-confidence which has marked Tokyo's approach to foreign policy.

It was made immediately before his talks with Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary.

and seemed designed to focus them on global issues rather than thorny Anglo-Japanese trade problems. He made only indirect references to Britain's concerns about restricted access to Japanese markets.

Mr Takeshita described his new policy as "co-operation for peace" and said it was part of a three-point international initiative. There were to be increased cultural exchanges and expansion of Japan's foreign aid. On the cultural front, he said he would promote interchange between different parts of the world.

He proposed a new fellowship programme to allow European scientists and researchers to work in Japan for a year, a working holiday scheme for young Japanese and Europeans, and expansion of a scheme which, in

1988, will involve 1,500 people from English-speaking countries spending a year teaching English in Japan. The teaching of Japanese in Europe would receive increased support.

He said Japan's \$10 billion (about £5.5 billion) overseas development budget for 1988 was the largest in the world and Tokyo was implementing its earlier plan to recycle \$30 billion over three years.

But he laid the main stress on political co-operation, and the importance of the partnership between Japan, Europe and the United States. He said that while links between Japan and the US, and between the US and Europe were strong, those between Japan and Europe "have perhaps not been close enough".

Leading article, page 13

Tokyo puts case for closer links

Extracts from the speech of the Japanese Prime Minister in London yesterday: "It is of utmost importance that the bilateral partners of Japan, the United States and the United States, fulfil their responsibilities... It cannot be denied, however, that the relations between Japan and Europe... have perhaps not been close enough... we must not allow this state of affairs to continue."

"Japan is firmly committed to the furtherance of world peace, and its constitution does not permit it to extend any military co-operation. This does not mean, however, that Japan should stand idly by with regard to international peace. I believe Japan... should extend co-operation to the utmost of its ability..."

"I intend to promote interchange among the various cultures of the world, while encouraging the preservation of each nation's precious culture. I would like to initiate a new fellowship programme under which European scientists and researchers would carry out research in Japan for about one year."

"In 1988 Japan will invite approximately 1,500 young people from Britain, the US and other English-speaking countries (to teach English in Japan for one year)..."

"Solidarity and unity are indispensable for the safeguard of the values of freedom and democracy which are shared by all the countries of the West. I take this opportunity to reiterate that the security of the West is indivisible..."

Incursion into Lebanon Israel deflects criticism

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Israel's expensive and dangerous incursion into South Lebanon on Monday night is beginning to look suspiciously like a public relations exercise.

News of the coming invasion seems to have been deliberately leaked to American television networks even before it began. Once it was under way, stories about the troops' restrained behaviour have featured prominently in the reports by the few trusted Israeli journalists allowed in with the Army.

In the occupied territories three Palestinians were shot dead and several others wounded. Curfews were reimposed after demonstrations in Gaza and the West Bank.

Yesterday a general strike paralysed the territories and troops had to be deployed to try to head off the kind of trouble which so often comes when work stops. The "uprising" is continuing, if somewhat subdued, but the world's media attention has switched to highlight Israeli behaviour in South Lebanon.

Israel is happy about that. Mr Abba Eban, the dovish elder statesman, said that the invasion was "much more orthodox" than what was going on in the territories. The world might condemn Israel for it, he said, but it was a different quality of complaint to those about the unrest.

Condemnations did come quickly, but they were relatively low key. The White House "deplored" the invasion, and took the opportunity of criticizing Syria at the same time by saying the best thing would be for all foreign forces to withdraw from Lebanon. The Foreign Office — which was described by the "Jerusalem Post" yesterday as "that dispenser of moral advice to the fractious" — said the invasion showed how useless it was for Israel to maintain a buffer zone inside Lebanon.

These remarks were mild compared to what has been

said about Israeli behaviour in the territories, and there could even be a sneaking respect for the Israeli view that it has the right to take the initiative against the persistent attacks.

Militarily, however, it is questionable whether the invasion has served any useful purpose beyond that of a field exercise for the troops. There have been more attempts at infiltration recently, and they have been relatively more successful. In eight attacks this year, 17 Palestinians have been killed, but they managed to shoot five Israeli soldiers. This is a much more even ratio than has been usual.

It is also obvious that the in-

to people with vivid memories of the 1982 Israeli invasion. Although soldiers were ordered to drive tanks carefully so as not to damage buildings, arrival did little to improve Israel's image and could war have fired resentment and recruited new helpers for the Palestinian and anti-Israeli militia groups.

The exercise is a dangerous gamble because, despite repeated assurances from the Army and senior ministers, there must be a possibility of a clash with Syrian troops which could escalate. There was the near certainty, which became fact yesterday, that the militia would resist with the risk that this could trap the invaders in the same way as in 1982.

The only obvious advantage, therefore, seems to be public relations. Inside Israel there is near total support for the mission. The right-wing would like to see the buffer zone extended and fenced, while the left wants the Army out as quickly as possible. But all around there is support for a move to show by strength that infiltration is suicidal.

Among the beleaguered settlements of the border, which have been increasingly nervous since the bulk of the Israeli Army pulled back from Lebanon in 1985, there is a feeling of relief but it is tempered by realism. Few if any of the kibbutzniks believe the infiltration attempts will stop as a result of the operation.

Even the Government seems to agree. Yesterday it announced a £1 million plan for improving cultural activities along the border.

Part of the money is to go on emergency kits for children. They include handicrafts, games and cassettes for the children to use while waiting in air-raid shelters. There are also to be more psychological services to deal with the traumas of living on the frontier.

Parliament, page 10

To compete or collaborate: that is the question

A powerful plea for a new era in Japanese-European relations was made yesterday by the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Noboru Takeshita, in his speech at the Mansion House. The essence of his argument was that the trilateral relationship between Japan, Europe and the United States is of the utmost importance for the West, and that the weak side of this triangle is closer Japan and Europe.

But how far would a closer relationship between Japan and Western Europe be realistic? How far, indeed, would such a relationship be in Europe's interest?

In some respects Japan and Europe are competitors at least as much as they are collaborators. They are in broad terms competitors for American attention.

The pattern of international power and influence will be affected considerably in coming decades by whether the United States decides in simplistic terms that the Pacific is the region of the future,

and that the links with Europe are merely those of sentiment and tradition.

This competition takes a more specific form on security issues. Japan and Europe are inevitably vying with each other for American resources. This will become very evident if the next President of the United States is forced to cut back on American troops abroad. It will then be a question of whether to reduce their numbers in Europe or the Far East.

One of the reasons why the Japanese are keen to get closer to Europe is that they fear they will lose the battle for as it is fought on a bilateral basis. The Americans, they believe, will always keep more in touch with Europeans for reasons of culture and language. The way in which the United States was initially prepared to allow the Soviet Union to keep a hundred SS20s in Asia, while scrapping all those in Europe, seemed to the Japanese a prime example of how they are



Geoffrey Smith

accorded a lower priority in American thinking. The only way to counter that, it appears to them, is to be more of an integral part of the general Western dialogue.

On other issues as well they believe that the best way to influence the United States is through Europe, or at least in company with Europe. But it cannot be in the European interest to be associated too

closely with Japan in the struggle against American trade protection.

On industrial trade, though not on agriculture, American wrath is directed principally against Japan. Retaliation is likely to be focused mainly on Japanese trade. Why should Europe interpose itself in the line of fire because the Japanese will not open their market sufficiently?

So there are a number of immediate, if narrow, reasons why the links cannot become too close. There is always likely to be a certain tension in the relationship.

But there are also broader, more long-term reasons for welcoming Mr Takeshita's initiative.

On security issues our ultimate interests are complementary. As he suggested yesterday, "stability in Asia and the Pacific is also a matter of great interest for the countries of Europe".

We both have an interest in the long run in an ordered and

ANC guerrillas are sentenced to hang for landmine deaths

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Two black guerrillas of the outlawed African National Congress were yesterday sentenced to multiple death sentences for their part in landmine incidents in 1985. The sentences were given by the circuit court in Messina, a small town on South Africa's border with Zimbabwe.

Mthetheli Mncube, aged 28, received a triple death sentence from Mr Justice J.P.O. de Villiers and two assessors for laying a mine which killed a black man in a cement truck in November, 1985, and for shooting dead two security branch policemen in a subsequent escape attempt.

Mzondile Nondula, aged 25, was sentenced to hang six times — one sentence for each of the six members of two white families whose open-backed truck detonated a landmine laid by him on a dirt track to a farm near the border in December, 1985. Both men

were also sentenced to effective 25-year jail terms on various counts of attempted murder and terrorism. Leave to appeal was granted.

The six-month trial arose out of 14 landmine incidents in the border area near Messina between the end of 1985 and early last year.

The judge dismissed the argument of defence counsel that the two accused were "men trained as soldiers by the ANC who believed they were under military orders" and that extenuating circumstances — therefore — existed which warranted a lesser penalty than hanging.

It was the second trial involving young black ANC operatives to end this week. On Monday, Gordon Webster, aged 24, was sentenced to an effective 25 years in prison after being convicted of murder, attempted murder and 12 counts of terrorism by the Pietermaritzburg Supreme

Court in Natal. The judge accepted that there were extenuating circumstances.

Webster was convicted of various sabotage bombings, including one which killed a police colonel. In May, 1986, he was fired by armed colleagues while under police guard in hospital and recaptured only in September of last year.

He said he had come back into the country to carry out "a far-fetched and silly" plan to take hostages in order to force the authorities to release one of his rescuers, Robert McBride, who is now in jail awaiting execution.

In a third, still unfinished, trial in the Eastern Transvaal town of Bethal, in which three alleged ANC guerrillas face charges of terrorism and treason, police officers testified that there was a spy at ANC headquarters in Lusaka, Zambia, as recently as last month.

Trial spotlights border war

By Shaun Johnson

In Messina, South Africa's northern frontier town, court proceedings have lifted a veil on direct military engagement between the South African Defence Force and African National Congress guerrillas along the banks of the Limpopo River.

The trial also illustrated the ebb and flow of the ANC's campaign of armed insurgency against the Pretoria Government.

The proceedings provided a unique window on what one state witness described as a "low-intensity war situation" in the border zone.

Ordinarily reporting on military activity is ruled out by South Africa's Defence Act, but court records are in the public domain. Fighting within South Africa's borders is rarely disclosed.

Lying about 350 miles north of Johannesburg, Messina stands on the outer edge of white-controlled Africa, within walking distance of independent Zimbabwe. The

trial there recalled the period of 1983-86, the high-water mark of unrest in South Africa's scattered black townships, and the time of an unprecedented escalation of the ANC's "armed struggle". The land-mine campaign in the Messina district was a component of the latter.

During the six-month trial, the courtroom in the white town was filled with members of the farming community, and relatives of the blast victims. Racial tension in the area is tangible.

The convicted guerrillas, Mthetheli Mncube, aged 28, originally of Soweto, and Mzondile Nondula, aged 25, of Queenstown, re-entered South Africa separately after being trained by the military wing of the ANC, *Umkhonto we Sizwe* (Spear of the Nation).

In court, Mncube — whose ANC name is "Caesar" — and Nondula — "Gaba" — repeatedly asserted their status as "disciplined soldiers" engaged

in a war, and refused to denounce the ANC. Both were in leg-irons.

Since the land-mine campaign, little news of continuing conflict has filtered out, and the emphasis has shifted to bomb blasts in urban areas. The inexorable transition of the frontier region from simple veld farmland to "operational zone" — it is now known as the *Soutpansberg Militaire Gebied* (Military Area) — makes the task of the guerrillas that much more difficult.

Local farmers and their families undergo intensive weapons training, and a sophisticated communications network is in place. Farmers receive substantial government subsidies to stay in the area.

In court, Mncube related how his group infiltrated South Africa in 1985 via Zambia and Zimbabwe in order to check South African Defence Force bases and patrol patterns in the area.

Battle of the Marne to woo voters



Enthusiastic supporters competing for the attention of M Jacques Chirac during an election rally in Lille, northern France.

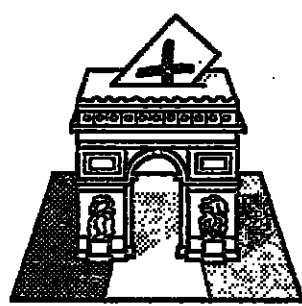
Final push in Chirac campaign

From Susan MacDonald, Chateau-Thierry, France

This pretty town on the edge of the Champagne country north-east of Paris suffered badly from the heavy fighting in the Battle of the Marne during the First World War.

This week it suffered an invasion of another sort when the Chirac entourage descended as part of the Prime Minister's gruelling programme which takes in three towns a day during this last week of the presidential election campaign.

The assault on Chateau-Thierry took the same form as those on other country towns: fly in from lunchtime meeting elsewhere; a quick welcoming ceremony; a rapid walk down the main shopping street; rousing two-minute speech



from the steps of the town hall; and departure by air to address a large public evening meeting in a town hundreds of miles distant.

M Jacques Chirac's unbounded enthusiasm is still intact, but the permanent tan has become deeper as the signs of fatigue have become more

evident. A tall, attractive man, he is at his best shaking hands, kissing babies and making forceful speeches. In between he tends to look confused and lost.

Chateau-Thierry is Union pour la Démocratie Française country. The party is the more moderate right-wing group which, with M Chirac's *Rassemblement pour la République*, forms France's governing coalition. They supported the other right-wing candidate, M Raymond Barre, who lost in the first-round voting and then pledged to support the Prime Minister in this Sunday's run-off.

In Chateau-Thierry this demonstration of right-wing unity was purely superficial.

Local and national Barre party dignitaries had turned out in force but it was obvious their hearts were not in it.

"We came here because we have a debt to pay. M Barre promised our support," said one regional councillor.

It is acknowledged that M Chirac's campaign has been the slickest and the best, but the frenzy of the final moments seems also to have shown that the more he has exposed himself to people the less impressed they are.

M Chirac is tonight in Marseilles where the National Front vote was high. Tomorrow he holds a meeting with former President Giscard, while M Mitterrand holds a Friday rally in Toulouse.

Paris expels Syrian who tried to free hostages

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

In a new twist to the saga involving three French hostages in Lebanon, Paris authorities have used anti-terrorist legislation to expel a Paris-based Syrian previously involved in attempts to secure their release.

The expulsion of Mr Oumrane Adham late on Tuesday appears to wind up a complex scramble to make political capital out of the kidnappings before the presidential election on Sunday.

With the collapse of negotiations to free

two diplomats, M Marcel Carton and M Marcel Fontaine, and a journalist, M Jean-Paul Kauffmann — who were seized in 1985 — already causing political reverberations, Mr Adham's abrupt departure is certain to fuel speculation.

Described as a wealthy and influential businessman, Mr Adham holds a Syrian diplomatic passport. In March 1986, when the previous Socialist Government was seeking to free the hostages, Mr Adham acted as an intermediary.

Nothing came of this, but after the election of the present French Govern-

ment, Mr Adham was apparently responsible for a highly controversial article in a pro-Syrian magazine.

This asserted that M Jacques Chirac and M Charles Pasqua — the Interior Minister whose name is on the expulsion order and who manages the Chirac presidential campaign — had pleaded with contacts close to the kidnappers to delay any release until after the elections.

In return, the magazine claimed, France would have provided Iran with new military hardware. These allegations were angrily denied.

Pravda accused of unfair attack

Moscow — *Pravda*, announcing that it had received about 1,000 letters since publishing a repudiation of a conservative manifesto a month ago, admitted that some correspondents had accused the paper of muzzling opposition forces (A Correspondent writes).

The letters condemned *Pravda* for abandoning *glasnost* and said that last month's editorial attacking the conservative daily *Sovetskaya Rossiya* was undemocratic.

"Lenin never closed the mouths of other people," one person wrote from Khabarovsk. Another writer said the article was like "a beating" given to someone for expressing a view. But *Pravda* defended its editorial, as a response to "positions of dogmatic thinking".

Health chief

Geneva (Reuters) — The World Health Organization endorsed the appointment of Dr Hiroshi Nakajima of Japan as its new director-general at its general assembly.

Cash shortage

Peking (Reuters) — A man who went to get cash from his bank account was told he would have to wait until others made a deposit because the bank was out of money.

Basque bomb

San Sebastian (Reuters) — A bomb destroyed a car showroom in the Basque town of Oyarzun. Suspected separatist guerrillas telephoned a warning and no one was injured.

Afghan talks

Delhi — President Najibullah of Afghanistan arrived here for a three-day visit at the invitation of Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister.

Tamils repent

Colombo (AFP) — Sri Lanka freed 50 Tamil rebels who promised to renounce violence and accept the peace accord with India.

Trade meeting

The Hungarian Prime Minister, Mr Karoly Grosz, arrived in London for talks on trade and credit for Hungary's ailing economy.

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South Korea unveils tight security plan for Olympic Games

From Gavin Bell, Seoul

There should be no exploding flower pots at the Olympic Games this year, and yachtsmen may rest assured their vessels are unlikely to run into any mines.

After seven years of secret planning and training, the organizers of the Seoul Olympics yesterday unveiled an awesome security apparatus involving 300,000 people that they say will provide the strongest defence against terrorism in Olympic history.

Officials said the operation began in earnest on Monday with the deployment of 16 special task forces, comprising 100,000 police and military personnel, around the Olympic stadium, the athletes' village and more than 300 other Games-related facilities.

Homes around potential targets are being checked for infiltrators; mail addressed to athletes and officials will be electronically scanned; and frogmen have been assigned to protect the yachting centre at the southern port of Pusan.

Security agents are analysing data on 6,000 known terrorists belonging to 600 international organizations, in co-operation with foreign intelligence services.

South Korea has every reason to guard against a terrorist attack, having remained in a perpetual state of hostilities with North Korea since a truce ended the war between them in 1953.

There have also been recent reports that the resurgent Japanese Red Army is planning to assassinate President Roh and other South Korean leaders during the Games.

To counter the perceived threats, South Korea created a security headquarters under the command of Mr Yook Whan Sik, a retired infantry general. Its ranks are drawn largely from the pervasive Agency for National Security Planning, formerly the Korean CIA.

Mr Yook has marshalled his forces in concentric rings of defence deployed around potential targets. Thus the Olympic yachtsmen will be protected by surveillance aircraft far out to sea, then by large warships, then by fast patrol boats closer to shore, and finally by navy divers. Similar cordons will be thrown around VIPs, spectators and Games venues on shore. Mr Yook reckons there is only one chance in a

hundred of a terrorist attack being attempted, and none at all of it succeeding.

Preserving a relaxed atmosphere amid what amounts to a general military mobilization has been a primary concern. Hence most of the security personnel, mingling with the public will be wearing civilian clothes or non-military uniforms.

In the unlikely event that terrorists break through Mr Yook's formidable defences, an elite police force known simply as "Unit 868" will be called into action.

This secretive group, some SAS-trained, went through its paces for invited journalists yesterday. The proceedings began with a demonstration of Taekwondo, a particularly deadly martial art popular in Korea. The star turn came from a fighter who shattered two bricks with his forehead.

Outside, another squad attacked a four-storey building with grenades and sub-machine guns designed to fire 20 rounds in two seconds. "Hopefully we will not be called in," a young lieutenant said. "But if we are, we are ready. We have been well trained."

Debating freedom freely



The Chinese dissident scientist, Mr Fang Lizhi, addressing students and teachers at an informal debate on freedom and democracy at Peking University yesterday. Mr Fang, a well-known astrophysicist who was dismissed from the Communist Party last year after being accused of inciting student protests, drew an audience of 500 students (Reuters reports).

Mr Fang spoke of China's need for freedom, democracy and modernization. Students debated with him for more than an hour by a statue of Cervantes on the campus. One of

those present quoted him as saying, in reply to a question about whether he had been barred from making public speeches: "Something like that. They don't like me making speeches." Mr Fang was quoted as saying that intellectuals in China needed freedom and that authorities were still refusing to let him take up a research post in the United States.

He was invited to Peking University by students and teachers to mark its 90th anniversary and the May 4 Movement of 1919, an intellectual revolution led by academics.

Swedes take a fresh look at joining EEC

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

Sweden, increasingly anxious that it will miss the boat as 1992 approaches, has begun to revise its position over the EEC.

A debate in Parliament yesterday on policy towards the community revealed a far less hostile line than that previously taken by MPs of the ruling Social Democratic Party and provided a vital barometer of opinion for Mr Ingvar Carlsson, the Prime Minister. Mr Carlsson starts a tour of European cities — including Madrid, Brussels, Bonn and London — on May 13 and will discuss ways in which Sweden can "keep close and continuing contact" with the EEC.

Mr Carlsson will meet Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, M Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany on May 13, Mrs Thatcher.

Coincidentally, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, will be in Stockholm this weekend for an official visit during which the question of Sweden's relations with the EEC will dominate the agenda.

Sir Geoffrey's speech to a meeting of the International Chamber of Commerce, in Stockholm, entitled simply "Europe", is awaited by the nation's top industrialists, who are starting, in the words of Mr Peter Wallenberg, head of the Swedish Federation of Industry, to feel "cold winds" at being excluded from increased European co-operation.

Sir Geoffrey will hold talks with Mr Carlsson and Mr Sten Andersson, the Foreign Minister.

Displaying characteristic Swedish caution, senior diplomats here remain reluctant to discuss the likelihood of any eventual Swedish application to join the EEC. But Mr Carlsson's European trip is seen as part of a "softening up" process, aimed at changing the anti-market stance of his assassinated predecessor, Olof Palme, who argued that belonging to a body so closely linked with Nato would compromise Swedish neutrality.

All the signs are that the Social Democratic leadership, headed by the pragmatic Mr

Carlsson, is moving away from that position.

Earlier this year the Government announced the appointment of a Cabinet committee for European affairs, headed by Mr Carlsson and the establishment of a Council for European Affairs, comprising leading industrialists and trade unionists.

It also announced the appointment of Mr Ulf Dinkelspiel, of the Foreign Ministry's trade department, as chief negotiator for European affairs. It is Mr Dinkelspiel who will present Sweden's application for EEC membership if it becomes government policy.

An integration secretariat has also been established to deal with questions concerning 1992.

In case there should be any doubt left after all these appointments as to the seriousness with which the country views European integration, an "under-secretariat" of senior civil servants has been formed.

Industry sees these moves as socialist shilly-shallying and it may not be long before the Swedish Federation of Industries reverses its present neutral position on EEC membership. A poll published yesterday in the business daily, *Dagens Industri*, revealed that 91 per cent of the country's industrial leaders now favour membership.

Mr Carl Bildt, the conservative opposition leader, came out firmly in favour of membership in an article in the daily *Svenska Dagbladet*, published yesterday to coincide with the parliamentary debate. He attacked the Government for hesitating and warned: "If Sweden wants to keep its position as a developed welfare state, full membership of the EEC's inner market is a necessity."



Mr Carlsson: Moving away from Palme position.

Yugoslavian fraud trial

Establishment of Bosnia in dock

From Dossa Trevisan, Belgrade

Twenty-five people, including the brother and nephew of former Vice-President Hamdija Pozderac, go on trial today in connection with Yugoslavia's biggest financial scandal. The affair shook the country and toppled many politicians in Bosnia last year.

The trial is taking place in Bihac, a once thriving town which is now bankrupt as a result of the fraudulent issue of promissory notes worth nearly \$1,000 million (£535 million) upon which the prosperity of the region was built.

The fraud was uncovered last year when a Belgrade newspaper obtained information indicating that something was going on in Bosnia and that high-ranking republican officials were trying to hush it all up. Soon it transpired that Agrokomprom, the vast industrial conglomerate which transformed the once backward region into a thriving domain, was built on fraudulent funds. The company's flamboyant president, Mr Fikret Abdic, apparently was able to get away with his financial misdeeds because he had enjoyed the full political support of the men of power in Bosnia, represented by the Pozderac family.

Mr Haskija Pozderac, brother of the former Yugoslav Vice-President, was a powerful political figure in Bosnia whose word carried great weight. He encouraged Agrokomprom's ambitious president to indulge in unrealistic projects. He assured him of the backing of the political establishment and, when the scandal was about to be uncovered, he tried to hush it up.

Scores of lesser local politicians and managers have since been ousted and tried for fraudulent practices. But today's trial is intended to go to the heart of the problem and many observers here see it as a trial of a system which prevailed in Bosnia for decades.

The people in the dock will be those who were able to override the law without ever being brought to account.

The Bosnian political scene is in turmoil as a result. Famed until the Agrokomprom scandal for its conservatism and toughness in dealing with

critics and opposition of any sort, the Bosnian establishment has been shaken. At a recent party conference representatives of the Young Communist League launched an assault on privileged people blocking the appointment of younger officials nominated to top posts.

They also demanded that, because of the extraordinary political consequences of the Agrokomprom scandal, the entire Bosnian political establishment should be sacked.

Mr Abdic and his associates are facing a series of charges, including undermining the country's economic system, misusing their office, engaging in illegal transactions and weakening Yugoslavia's stability.

Until the scandal came into the open, Mr Abdic was regarded by his countrymen in general and the people of the Bihac region in particular as a "god" to whom they owed their prosperity. In less than 15 years he had transformed the region by establishing what was regarded as one of the most successful agro-industrial firms in Yugoslavia. Last year, the May Day procession which filed past the Bosnian dignitaries was nearly two miles long with lorries loaded with rabbits, turkeys, chickens, eggs and biscuits and workers carrying posters which hailed the "Agro-commerce miracle industry". Hoarding on the town's buildings proclaimed that "Fikret is god".

This year, however, the little Bosnian town was totally deserted. A few days ago, several thousand workers staged their second protest march this year demanding bread and work. Out of 12,000 workers employed by Agrokomprom in its heyday 3,000 have now moved elsewhere. The 9,000 who remain because they have nowhere to go are living on a pitiful minimum wage.

Meanwhile, the authorities are still undecided whether to bail out the enterprise or let it go under.

Whatever is decided, and even if something of the empire built on fraud can be salvaged, more than half of the remaining work force will be redundant.

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May 4 1988

But threats of a Government defeat and a likely general election are sometimes used by the whips to concentrate the minds of MPs with marginal seats.

SPECTRUM

Both an inspiration for the education Bill and a fervent amender of it, Lady Cox is hard at work in the Lords this week

Spark of the right's ideas

I used to be the far left which spawned innumerable little groupings with hard-edged policies and mysterious names. But it is a significant symptom of the political transformations of recent years that today all the most formidable and mysteriously named little groupings are to be found on the far right. To a surprising extent their members are the very same people who used to fulminate in the groupuscules of the left. Lady Cox seems to be on the steering committee of almost every one of them.

There is no mystery about the process which has brought about this migration of the group habit. The driving force behind the Committee for a Free Britain, the Hillgate Group and the like, comes from people who used to be active on the political left, even as far left as the Communist Party, but became disillusioned in the hysterical Seventies, and took their concern for liberty and opportunity to the other end of the political spectrum. Here they exercise their old skills in lobbying for votes and drafting amendments with as much glee as ever. The group is its instinctive mode of self-expression.

Caroline Cox is ubiquitous in this corner of politics. Until the early Seventies she considered herself a natural Labour voter, though she was never embroiled in the excitement of the conspiratorial left. She arrived in the Lords, much to her astonishment,

THE TIMES PROFILE

LADY COX

only five years ago. But she has taken to the arts of lobbying and amendment-drafting like a duck to water.

The Education Reform Bill, which is making its way through its committee stage in the Lords this week, is heavily influenced by her research and campaigning, which has accused state schools of failing their pupils by abandoning traditional standards in favour of undemanding routines and disguised political propaganda. As a parent whose three children all went through the comprehensive system, she cannot be dismissed as a doctrinaire opponent of state education. Nor is she satisfied with the Bill's provisions regarding religious education, one of the questions that occupies her most.

Yesterday morning, six hours after moving an amendment on RE in the House in the small hours, she was looking less than worn for wear than most legislators do after a late sitting. Probably her training as a nurse stands her in good stead when she has to keep irregular hours. A breezy, bustling figure with a fringe and a toothy smile, she has

something of the dishevelled, neighbourly air that is one of Shirley Williams's chief political assets. She has the same energetic profusion of speech, and great clarity of mind. She plays squash and tennis, and pursues the hearty pastime of campaigning: factors which, with her nursing background, combine to create a Bejmanesque impression.

All this is rather at odds with her public image. Her association with the kind of people who cannot pronounce the word "egalitarian" without a curl of the lip, and the efforts of the propagandists of the opposite side, give the impression of a rather harsh and elitist figure, devoted to the market and devil take the hindmost.

The reality is quite different, but the art of personal presentation on the public scale is one of the political arts to which she has not yet troubled to apply herself. She has a swashbuckling side which is not much known — she regularly rides off in the cabs of long-distance lorries delivering loads of medical supplies to Poland, and recently had some hazardous adventures with Land-Rovers and camels in the Sudanese desert as a volunteer health worker in the famine zone.

The two central elements in her make-up are her religious conviction and her vocation as a nurse. All the other things she has taken up have derived from those.

"I began as very much a figure of the left, though I was brought up in a Conservative family. When I



left school with four A-levels and two S-levels, I caused some chagrin by deciding I would train as a nurse instead of going to university. I felt nursing was my vocation, and I've never regretted it.

"Then I had what I always say was the best education a nurse could have — I went into hospital for six months with tuberculosis which I had caught on the wards. It gave me time to study for a sociology degree." Filled with the left-wing ideals tempered in the hospital wards and tenements of the East End, she became in 1969 a

lecturer in social science at the Polytechnic of North London. "I must have been one of the most politically innocent people ever to enter the place."

The saga of the North London Poly was one of the defining events of today's politics, and Caroline Cox was one of its heroes. "She looked into the abyss, into the awful pit, and in horror she recoiled," declares Dr Rhodes Boyson, MP, who came to know her at that time when he published the book *The Rape of Reason*, of which she was joint author, which

described in ugly detail the tactics of the extreme left in the disturbances there. The vicious bullying that they used to stifle political debate, and the weakness of moderates in resisting them, conclusively discredited the left for her, as for many others. Her career as a member of the committed right stemmed from that experience.

It has led her to the Upper House, but she remains very much her own woman. She was rapidly promoted to be a Conservative Whip, but gave it up after a few months because she did not like to

BIOGRAPHY

1937: born Caroline Anne Love, daughter Methodist surgeon
1959: married Dr Murray Cox, psychiatrist; two sons and a daughter
1969: lecturer, Polytechnic of North London; later sociology head
1975: joint author *Rape of Reason*
1975: director, Nursing Education Research Unit, Chelsea College
1983: life peerage
1986: a Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords

be bound by the official line. She is independent enough to admit that she was troubled by the recent ballot of London parents rejecting the abolition of the Inner London Education Authority: "I respect their fear that transferring control to the boroughs may just be a move from the frying pan into the fire: but I believe that abolition is right, in combination with a right for schools to opt out of council control."

Now she is thinking hard about health policy. "I am regarded with a certain apprehension by the frontbench on health, since I am deeply committed to the principle of treatment freely available at the point of need. I am not sure they have a coherent policy on health. I am still doing my thinking on that."

The Tory party has seldom given much of its energy to discussion of political principles, being more concerned with pragmatism and making sure there is a sound hand on the tiller. One effect of the arrival of Labour's ideological exiles has been to introduce into the Conservative party a leavening of members with a real gusto for basic ideas. Lady Cox is, as Dr Boyson puts it, one of the "think people" among the new party groups. She represents a fresh and unblinking element in the character of her party.

George Hill

Saving heirs and graces

In the old days they hunted to pass their time 'tunin', shootin' and posin' for paintings by George Stubbs. Now they are attending seminars on how to defend the estate against far more abrasive realities — such as inheritance tax and upkeep.

They are the new model aristocrats, emerging from the baronial woodwork, their eyes fixed on the approaching millennium. They have two options. The first, more tempting one in the light of long-accustomed leisure, is to whittle away at their assets, selling them off piecemeal as the need arises. The second is to swap traditional places with the *hot pot*, rolling up their shirtsleeves and serving them hand and foot.

Both approaches are under discussion this spring. On May 18 the auctioneers Christie's and the estate agents Savills start a series of Country Estate Seminars in three stately houses: Luton Hoo, Bedfordshire, Weston Park, Shropshire, and Hopetoun House, West Lothian.

"Keeping one step ahead of ruin is becoming a highly complex business," says the seductive spiel; their "team of highly experienced professionals" can help "share the burden". This includes lessons as to the profitability of selling a given work to the Government in lieu of tax, or sending it to auction.

Last week, the Historic Houses Association advocated the more active approach in a seminar laid on for its "Succession Committee" — composed of apprehensive heirs waiting in the wings. Last week's topic was "Managing and marketing conferences and events".

Dressed in a positively fuchsia dress, the glamorous Lady Cobham of Hagley Hall, Worcestershire, (18th century Palladian pile-cum-conference centre outside Birmingham) and winner of a British Tourist Authority enterprise award, took prospective entrepreneurs through an assault course of dos and



SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

A weekly look at the art world

don'ts, brushing briefly against the catastrophes that even she has encountered.

"Dos" included: smile all the time; have checklists for all functions; leave time for "set up and derig times"; encourage cleaners; attend to details such as a "first-class ladies' loo attendant". According to Lady Cobham, such a pearl among cleaners

earns "lots of Brownie points" from the clientele.

Among the "don'ts" were: don't let the florist drip on your Chippendale table; don't skimp on instructions. Hagley has become Fawley Towers on occasions, as when an untutored waitress served 19 guests with uncooked Grand Marnier soufflé because she "didn't know it had to go into

the oven", and when the Three Degrees pop group came to entertain staff from the Ford Motor Company, only to keep making quips in their patter about General Motors.

Next, Lord Brentford of Newick Park, Lewes, a pragmatist who has learnt to love his new role. "We either had to sell up or make the estate pay for itself," he says. "There was only one option, to turn the place into a dog cemetery and we walked at that."

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No doubt, that night members of the Succession Committee slept uneasily in their four-poster beds.

The owners of stately homes are now subject to a welter of professional advice on the art of financial survival

earn "lots of Brownie points" from the clientele.

Among the "don'ts" were: don't let the florist drip on your Chippendale table; don't skimp on instructions. Hagley has become Fawley Towers on occasions, as when an untutored waitress served 19 guests with uncooked Grand Marnier soufflé because she "didn't know it had to go into

the oven", and when the Three Degrees pop group came to entertain staff from the Ford Motor Company, only to keep making quips in their patter about General Motors.

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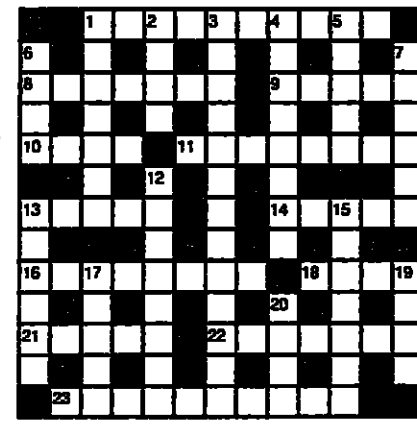


Winning formula: Lady Cobham outside Hagley Hall, which has won her an enterprise award. Now she advises others

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1556

ACROSS
1 French Foreign Office (4,6)
2 Columbia Indians (7)
9 Raga instrument (5)
10 Land charts (4)
11 Given prominence (8)
13 Club emblem (5)
14 Moral fall (5)
16 Evident (8)
18 Thick cake slice (4)
21 Denver Boot (5)
22 Property stealers (7)
23 Californian gold prospector (5,5)

DOWN
1 Joked (7)
2 On unpermitted absence (1,1,1,1)
3 Mood Indigo musician (4,9)
4 Colonize again (8)
5 Communion table (5)
6 Worthless types (4)
7 Flod (6)
12 Infirmary (8)
13 Offshoot (6)
15 Tedious fuss (7)
17 Grand instrument (5)
19 European perch (4)
20 Indication (4)



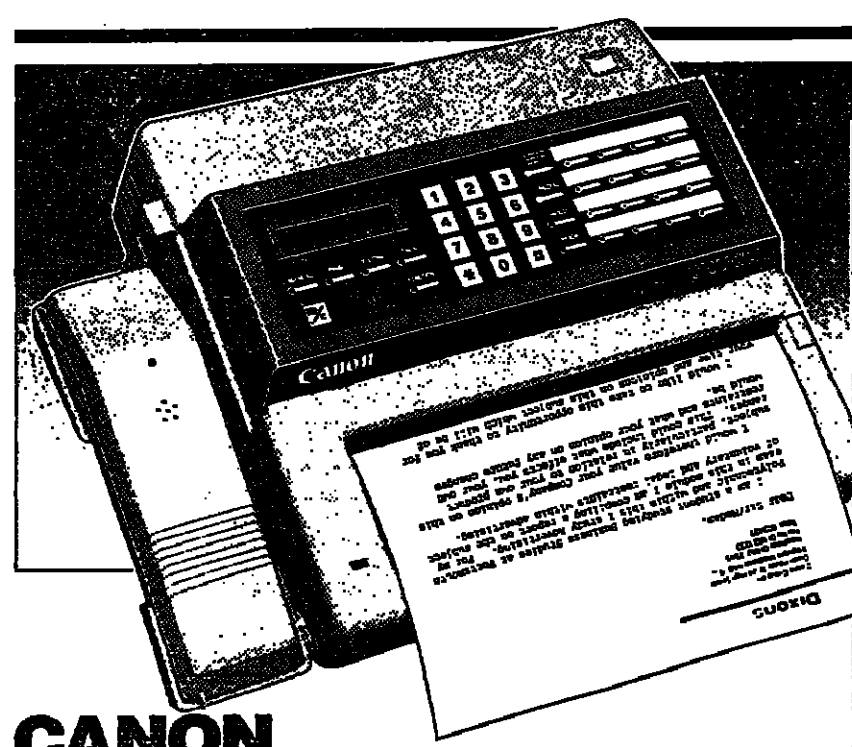
SOLUTION TO NO 1555
ACROSS: 3 Ride 5 Menu 8 Khaki 10 Calculate 11 Tough 12 Twig 13 Hinge 14 Evasion 16 Onassis 18 Dory 20 Hib 22 Offen 23 Unhelpful 24 Tiltle 25 Tank 26 Eys
DOWN: 1 Sketch 2 Laburnum 3 Richter scale 4 Deluge 6 Egad 7 Uneven 9 Nuts and bolts 15 Irritate 16 Occult 17 Shifts 19 Yonder 21 Shin

TOMORROW

One blink away from disaster? We look at the men attempting to control the rapidly growing aircraft congestion in Britain's skies

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● Ingenuity is a general knowledge competition being played over 18 days with 10 questions a day. The authors of the first six correct entries to be opened at the end of the competition will each receive a set of the 1988 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, in a blue Constitution binding, worth £2,280.

1. Country of origin of the shirts associated with the Italian patriot who died on a Sardinian island.

2. Surname of the man who managed to leave La Santé by helicopter in 1986.

3. Spoof sci-fi film from which Nick, Roger, Andy and Simon took a name when they formed a pop group in the 1970s.

4. What Carl André used for the Tate's "Low Sculpture".

5. One of Zeus's girlfriends, whose father gave his name to Herschel's planet.

● The questions vary in difficulty. The answer to each question is a single word or name — but the number of letters in the answers do NOT correspond with the number of boxes — except for the longest of them.

● Cut out this coupon and keep it until the end of the contest

6. What, collectively, are Butchers, Coachmen and Professors?

7. Name of the vase, smashed in 1845, which was bought by the British Museum in 1945.

8. Cave in France found by four boys when looking for a lost dog.

9. Composer of the opera, set in America, in which the hero's hiding place is betrayed by a drop of his blood.

10. What can be Pommé, Potent, Fleury, or Voided and Couped?

TIMES DIARY

SIMON CALLOW

So *Faust* is up and running. It seems barely credible. I determined to do it, come what may, six years ago when David Spenser impulsively offered me the title role in his radio production. I wasn't much pleased with my own performance, but was convinced of the beauty and importance of the play. I instantly shot off an impassioned letter to Peter Hall — I used to do that a lot in those days — demanding that he immediately schedule a production at the National Theatre. He wrote back gently indicating that he personally doubted the stage-worthiness of the play, but that perhaps one day it might be worth trying to do, up a production and come quite close to doing so on a couple of occasions. I was going to play *Faust* and Roy Marsden was going to play the Devil.

When we heard that David Macdonald was doing a production in Glasgow I phoned and offered us. "I don't think so," he said. "It would be rather like having Abbott and Costello — except, of course, if it was Abbott and Costello, I'd take them like a shot." But somehow we're here. A couple of Saturdays ago we finally made the history books with the first performance in English of *Faust Parts I and II* in anything like its complete form.

Like a lover or a demanding child, it occupies so much of one's brain: not just during the three and a half hours of each performance, seven on Saturday; not only during the several hours preparation before the show and the hour or so discussing what went wrong after, but really from the first moment of consciousness each day. And this has been going on for years, during which I have amassed every book about Goethe and every other version of the story.

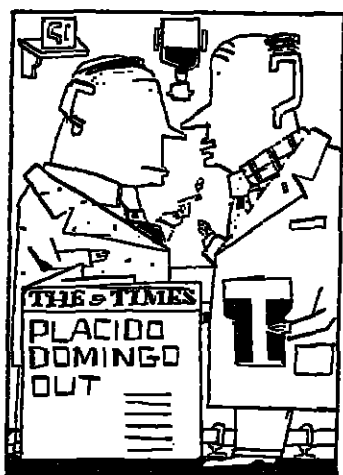
The musical versions are particularly profuse, Schumann, Wagner, Berlioz, Mahler, Liszt (the most Goethean) and Gounod (the least). There is even an opera, *Le Faust*, written (of course) a female devil, Mephisto. Goethe wrote at the end of his life that his *happiest Goethe* was his main line of business, as if he had written on his passport, under Profession, "Faust writer". Mine would say "Faust actor".

It is unusual to be playing a classical part with no performing tradition, not in this country, at any rate. So many Shakespearean performances exist in reaction to earlier interpretation — usually against, sometimes in imitation, conscious or not. But with our play, we walk in darkness. There have, of course, been English versions, some quite recent, at Mold and the Young Vic, for example, but none which gained wide currency. For that you have to go back to the great actor-managers. Beerbohm Tree's biographer is oddly silent about his version, but Irving's production — the biggest box office success of his career — inspires a memorable passage in Laurence Irving's great life.

Irving, always a fanatic for technology, had imported scenic effects, smoke machines and the latest lighting equipment from all over Europe. It was the *Starlight Express* of his day. The greatest tip of all, however, was the use of electricity on stage. Irving had the swords of Valentine and Faust wired up so that when they fought, sparks would be struck. Unfortunately, on the first night water unaccountably got into their gloves, and both actors received electric shocks. The Valentine recovered, but the Faust wandered about the stage increasingly bewildered. Next day, he was replaced.

At the best of times *Faust* has been an ungrateful time of it. Arthur Miller came to see our production during previews. Afterwards he came to my dressing room to say hello. "Well," he said with philosophic charm, "Faust is what we in the American theatre call the second banana part." Mephistopheles has all the jokes, you see. Jung observed that he was the only really human character in the play because he was the only one with a sense of humour. Certainly Goethe seemed to have tapped unexpected reserves of anarchy and carnality in the role. In his final scene, Mephistopheles is undone by falling violently, sexually, in love with one of the angels, who happens to be a boy. And this scene was written when the famously heterosexual Goethe was 82. I suppose we must expect a visit from the Castle 28 people any day now.

BARRY FANTONI



'I had no idea the new UEFA ruling on foreign players extended to Placido Domingo'

Last night we had a standing ovation from the gallery. Nowhere else, just the gallery. I cannot recall ever having seen such a thing before. It was charming, but worrying. They looked as if they might fall down. It reminded me of how relatively recent this phenomenon is, in English theatres. I was an usher at the Old Vic during some of the greatest performances of Olivier, Scofield, and Maggie Smith, and I cannot recall a single one. Even now English audiences are not very good at them, appearing frequently to be caught between leaving and cheering. Are they standing up because they were going anyway? I wonder if we shall ever see the English equivalent of the perfectly drilled leap to the feet and unanimous roar of the Broadway audience. Or the statutory rise of the Dutch audience, impassive but immensely courteous, much as we all used to stand for the National Anthem. The English audience, I should say, naturally expresses itself on its bottom. Though once, at a matinee of *The Dance of Death*, we ushers, in clearing the theatre of its litter of ice-cream cartons and cast lists, discovered a gentleman who had died in the front row. That, of course, is going too far.

The continuing hunt for the IRA unit which killed three British servicemen on Sunday raises the question whether the European Commission's aim, not simply to reduce internal frontier controls by 1992 but to scrap them altogether, will not make life too easy for the terrorists.

For police, intelligence experts and other security specialists the speed and irreversibility of the proposed changes create a nightmare of additional security problems. It is all very well for Lord Cockfield, Britain's senior internal market commissioner, and his fellow crusaders to assert that the abolition of all frontier controls will lead to a better alternative way of combating terrorism, drug-trafficking and other serious international crimes. The point is that much as we would like to find alternative solutions we have so far failed to find a safe way of abandoning internal frontier controls.

We still have diverse national security policies, laws and legal and police systems. There is no chance of harmonizing them by 1992. I doubt whether it is realistic to expect a single European judicial area and legal system until well into the next century.

Freedom from border checks for the law-abiding means freedom for terrorists and other

dangerous criminals. Do we really want IRA and ETA terrorists, for example, to have unfettered freedom of access to any part of the Community? It is true that our present system did not stop the IRA murder gangs getting into the Continent to commit further ghastly outrages. But at least the system of border controls provides some chance of spotting them as they move through ports of entry. And in Spain good surveillance and intelligence work did manage to spot the IRA gang planning a massacre at Gibraltar.

Some West European countries, such as West Germany and the Netherlands, have ultra-lenient political asylum policies which have been freely exploited by terrorists. If we abolish internal frontiers we make the security of Western Europe against terrorism only as strong as the weakest link in external frontier control.

Once the terrorists have got through and established their

base areas they would then be free to launch attacks anywhere in the European Community. I think what a boon this would be to groups such as the pro-Iranian terrorists, acting for access to targets in Europe. It would also pose a grave threat for the UK, facing the well-armed Libyan-backed IRA. It is for reasons like these that Britain and France are likely to be among those EC states opposing the total abolition of internal frontiers.

It is of course true that since the US bombing of Libya in April 1986 the EC states have made considerable improvements in co-operation against terrorism. Trevi, the European standing conference on terrorism, has been the main instrument for the ministers of interior to concert police and intelligence action against terrorism. It has established useful measures such as a secure communications network among all the EC police forces, and enhanced moves to trace

and undermine terrorist weapon supply and funding and other elements of support. It has also compiled a valuable black list of wanted terrorists and "diplomats" who have abused their status by engaging in terrorism.

It is the police and intelligence services which have been most effective in enhancing anti-terrorism co-operation for they are clearly aware that increased co-operation and intelligence sharing and a strengthening of external frontiers are vital prerequisites for any relaxation of internal barriers. It is a pity that their clear-headed approach has not always been reflected by their political masters.

In the context of the move to abolish internal frontiers the most important step taken has been the establishment of a high-level EC working group, including ministerial advisers on immigration and European Commission representatives as well as security experts. This group has been studying border

controls and their role and effectiveness in combating terrorism and other types of crime. It has also been engaged in the important task of studying methods of preventing the abuse of political asylum. Perhaps the most hopeful aspect of this group's work from the point of view of the fight against terrorism, is that its proposals are to be co-ordinated with progress towards the internal market.

If this principle is adhered to we have less reason to fear the security implications of the internal market proposals. But there is still a worrying gulf between the Utopian expectations engendered by Lord Cockfield's crusade and the hard necessity of protecting the national security of member states.

We cannot afford to be complacent about the readiness of our EC allies to move towards a stronger and more consistent stance against terrorism. For example France and some other

states still seem prepared to negotiate squalid secret deals with terrorist hostage-takers which would only fuel more terrorism and endanger hundreds of other citizens of many nationalities. Some states, such as Ireland, still seem determined to use bureaucratic devices to obstruct extradition of terrorists. Some governments are only too willing to turn a blind eye for the sake of a juicy arms deal, markets or other commercial gain.

The truth is that despite recent modest improvements in West European co-operation against terrorism the whole structure is as leaky as a sieve. It is not simply reactionary stubbornness that leads the British and security advisers to oppose the instant abolition of internal border controls. It is an absolute necessity for us to ensure that national security against the growing international scourge of terrorism is in no way weakened. If we go along with the hasty abolition proposals being put forward from the European Commission we risk turning Western Europe into an internal market for terrorism.

The author, Professor of International Relations at Aberdeen University, is chairman of the Research Foundation for the Study of Terrorism.

Paul Wilkinson on the need for frontier controls after 1992

Internal market for terror?

Bernard Levin

Don't praise them, bury them

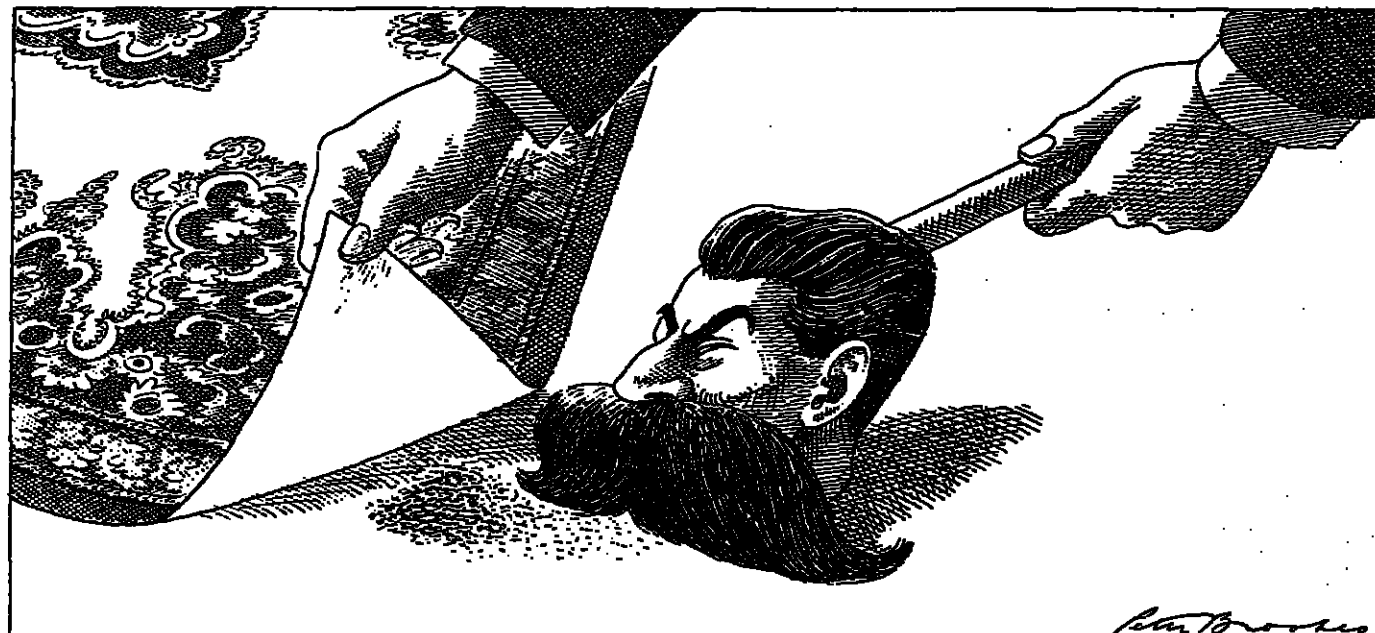
What have Harry McShane and Camilla Ravera in common? Three things, and one more. First, they have both recently died. Second, they had both lived to be almost 100. Third, they had both been communists. McShane for 34 years, Ravera for nearly twice as long. But it is the fourth thing which interests me, and which I wish to discuss today: the curious nature of their obituaries.

These dwell strongly, as was only right, on certain obvious and important qualities which both the Scottish and the Italian communist plainly had; determination, for instance, and courage. Ravera was imprisoned for anti-state activities under the Mussolini regime; McShane, too, served time, also for offences committed in the course of his political career (though we must bear in mind the difference between a British court acting under the rule of law and a fascist one operating on *raison d'état*). Then again, both without question were true to their beliefs, and neither seems to have sought any form of personal vainglory, let alone wealth.

So far, so good; dedication, bravery, sincerity, modesty; admirable characteristics all. Closer inspection of them, however, reveals that they are also all morally neutral; unlike tolerance, charity, scrupulousness and veracity, they can serve evil causes as well as good ones, and they frequently have. Lenin lived without ostentation, and Goebbels was brave; Hitler was perfectly sincere in his belief that Jews deserved to be exterminated, and Ho Chi Minh never swerved in his determination to turn all Vietnam into a communist state.

Of course, neither McShane nor Ravera ever did anything to compare with the evils those four practised. But what cannot be denied is that they both harnessed themselves to one of the two most evil ideologies the world has ever seen.

Let us take Camilla Ravera



first. She was one of the founders of the Italian Communist Party; amid the fictional squabbles that rent the party she was at one time expelled from it, but that didn't seem to have any effect on her faith. After the second World War she became an MP, and remained in the Italian Parliament as a life senator; when she died, in April, her eulogy was spoken by another woman communist deputy, who said of Ravera that she strove for, among other things, democracy.

Well, no, she didn't, actually; she strove, with an energy and pertinacity worthy of a better cause, to turn Italy into a Soviet dictatorship (she entered Parliament in 1948, when the Italian party was as unwaveringly Stalinist as the British one), and she went on striving to do that, as far as I can see, until the day of her death.

Now one could hardly expect her comrade, at her graveside, to tell the truth about the thing they both served; whence the bit about striving for democracy. But here is a passage not from the funeral oration, but from a British newspaper obituary:

During her last 20 years her image and comportment were not that of an aged "bolshhevik" but as a kindly, bright-eyed provider of the perfect cup of hot cocoa, to those in need of such.

Yes, yes; she got the idea, I believe, from Andropov, who, when head of the KGB, was known as "Andy the Cocoa-man", and the sound of his shuffling step in the cellars of the Lyubanka brought happy smiles of anticipation to his "customers". (Mind you, if you think that stuff about Camilla Ravera was coming it a bit strong, wait until Dolores Ibarruri, "La Pasionaria" — dies; there will be nine Niagaras of similar gush to commemorate one "beside whom", in the memorable words of the late Tibor Szamuely, "Lavrenti P. Beria was an officer and a gentleman".)

Let us now return home and consider Harry McShane. Said one obituarist: "In the 23 years, I have never ceased to be impressed by his moral courage, integrity and dedication; he de-

spised the intolerance and callousness of Thatcherism..." Said another: "In 1953... he developed fundamental differences with the Party. Influenced by the American academic Rea Dumeyne, he came to the conclusion that the Soviet Union was an exploitive society, not unlike Western capitalism..." And a third: "Harry McShane... had a quiet strength and dignity... Harry... especially during the 1930s and during and after the Second World War, accepting the CP's view regarding the Soviet Union. Although he had supported Stalin, he... always considered Trotsky one of the great leaders of the Russian Revolution..."

What is at work here? It is not sympathy with communism, let alone fellow-travelling. It is that Orwell christened, in a different context, a new "benefit of clergy". The form it takes can be illustrated by another, very significant, passage from one of the obituaries, by Eric Heffer. Heffer was the only one who explained exactly why McShane had broken with the Communist

Party, which he did in 1956. Hear Heffer:

His break came... over an incident at the Scottish Communist Party Congress... Some younger members had refused to give Bill Lauchlan, the Scottish Secretary, a standing ovation and were taken before the Scottish secretariat of the party to be disciplined. That was the last straw for Harry.

Heavy straws they have in Scotland, eh? Here was a man — and the same goes for Camilla Ravera, except that she never left the PCI — who stayed in the Communist Party through the millions of deaths in Stalin's "man-made famine", through the show trials; through the tens of millions of further deaths in the Gulag; through the Nazi-Soviet Pact (when the British CP, because Hitler was Stalin's friend, and therefore theirs, had to oppose the war against him); through the creation of an empire in Eastern Europe, more cruel than any of the imperialisms the communists were accustomed to denounce; through the imprisonment or slaughter (after show trials) of the communist leaders of

Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Poland; through the Hungarian Revolution itself... all this, it seems, would still not have been enough had not the British CP committed a really terrible crime, viz., disciplining some members of the Scottish party who had been reluctant to give an important CP figure a standing ovation. Well, I mean, that's really serious.

Why are the McShanes and Raveras painted in these warm, absurd colours when their equivalents among the ranks of unswerving Hitler-followers would be treated as harshly as they deserved to be? The benefit of clergy, I believe, lies in two apparently ineradicable beliefs. First, that the Soviet Union, whatever its faults, is always just about to get much better, so that it would be unkind to remind people about its unreformed past.

Second, that since communism, in its earliest and purely theoretical form, could be held to be an ideal system, the fact that it has in practice turned out to be the most brutal and murderous negation in all history of every aspect of the brotherly love that it was supposed to bring can be discounted. When thus discounted, the whole of that negation, in all its forms, is regarded, in perpetuity, as no more than an aberration; those, therefore, who follow, indeed who worship, the evil reality are really following and worshipping the benign and gentle original.

Well, that's my guess, anyway. If you don't agree, make your own. But do not allow yourself to believe that no such explanation is necessary, for if you do, you are more than halfway to the dual benefit of clergy, where you will feel no incongruity when the next centenary Stalinist to die is praised for his integrity, his dignity, his loyalty, and his hatred of "the intolerance and callousness of Thatcherism".

© Times Newspapers, 1988

Commentary • RONALD BUTT

Rage v prayer

Why is there so much hate and fury among the opponents of David Alton's abortion law reform Bill? Alton has faced the intimidation of pickets, violence and daubed obscenities at his home and "surgery". His work as an MP has been disrupted. His own and his supporters' meetings have been broken up. Every effort is made to ensure that his case is not heard.

You might think that those in public life who oppose the Bill would have denounced these tactics and have besought their supporters to behave decently. I have not been able to discover a single instance of their doing so. Instead, they have complained bitterly of the dirty tricks of Alton's supporters. And of what do these dirty tricks consist? Prayer mostly.

What seems particularly to have infuriated his parliamentary opponents was Alton's suggestion that, in the constituencies of MPs who had appeared to be contemplating a filibuster in the committee stage, Christian supporters should pray for a change of heart in the individuals concerned. This was described as unfair pressure and as a dirty trick.

If no filibuster was contemplated, the MPs only had to say so. (One or two did, and Alton wrote to tell his supporters.) If a filibuster was intended and they did not believe in God, they did not have much to fear, except that their Christian constituents had been made aware of their plans. If, on the other hand, they did believe in God, and a change of heart, they could have welcomed it as a discovery that they had been on the wrong side.

So, on the one hand, you have prayer and on the other disrup-

tion, picketing and violence. Which is the dirty trick? The veteran abortion campaigner Mrs Diane Munday has accused Alton of "acting like Goebbels" and of using the technique of the big and rude lie because of what she called his "horror stories", especially those concerned with pain to the foetus in late abortions. These, she said, were causing women seeking advice on abortion to ask questions not asked before.

She was specifically scathing about the case of the 21-week aborted child in Carlisle which was reported to have been left for several hours to die. Yesterday, however, it emerged that the coroner in the case has recommended an inquest. This is of considerable interest because of the pro-abortionists' last-ditch attempt, at the report stage of the Bill this Friday, to reduce the period for permitted abortions from the present 28 weeks to 24 weeks instead of the Bill's 18 weeks.

If the limit were the end of 24 weeks, on the basis of the 1987 figures that would save only seven babies. If 18 weeks, the figure would be some 7,600; if 20 weeks some 3,700; if 22, some 1,300. It is important to remember that the Bill deals only with late abortions at a stage when the child is approaching viability and there is scientific evidence that it can feel pain. The Bill does not touch the wider question of the criteria for abortion under the 1967 Act, which for practical purposes made abortion on demand possible despite assurances that it would not. Alton's Bill also makes an exception, even after 18 weeks, for cases where severe handicap is diagnosed or of rape and incest

involving girls under 18. Yet the Bill is being fought in the Commons by procedural devices and tricks with the same spirit of ferocity and bitterness as outside, with every attempt to preserve as many abortions as possible. I come back to the question, why?

The answer is that many with a vested intellectual or emotional interest in maintaining the myth that abortion is just another medical procedure do not wish to face the truth of what is involved in a late abortion. It is the great contemporary taboo. It is why there is a cry of rage from people otherwise committed to explicitness at the suggestion that a late abortion should be televised. It is why, I suppose, MPs fighting for a meaningless 24 weeks are not likely to accept an invitation from Alton's supporters to inspect a spontaneously aborted foetus of a gestational age of 23 or 24 weeks (13in from crown to heel) which has been certificated by a pathologist. It is why there is violence outside Parliament and procedural tricks inside. Making, especially when it has a troubled conscience, cannot bear too much reality.

Abortion at an early stage and in particular cases is a complex moral issue about which there can be differing and morally responsible opinions. Two things are morally irresponsible. The first is the ethos cultivated since the 1967 Act that abortion is a long-stop remedy for an inconvenient conception without moral implications. The second is deliberately to avert the eyes from what happens when a child on the brink of life is aborted. These are the issues Parliament must now face.

SCIENCE REPORT

String-pulling

The puzzle over the movement of galaxies near our own towards the same apparently empty spot in the sky may have been solved, but in a way that raises as many questions as it answers.

In today's issue of *Nature*, Y. Hoffman and W. Zurek, of the Los Alamos National Laboratory in the US, offer the explanation that the galaxies are being pulled by the gravitational attraction of a loop of matter called "cosmic string".

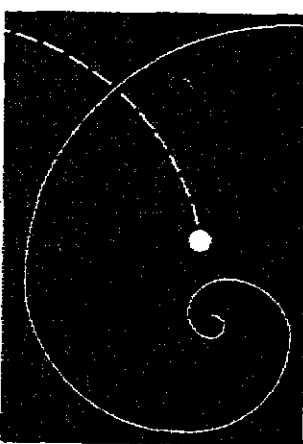
Cosmic string is supposed to be material that is infinitesimally thin but enormously massive, left over from the first moments of the Big Bang in which the universe is believed to have been formed.

Cosmic string is a conceptual generalization of the notion of a particle, a point with mass but no physical extent. The cosmic string variant is a line drawn in space, but with no width, only length in some direction.

The total mass of a piece of cosmic string depends on its length, but might be a million million million tonnes per metre. A 10,000-light-year length of cosmic string could have as much mass as a galaxy like our own, with its 100,000 million stars.

For several years the distribution of galaxies in the sky has been known to be "clumpy"; in some regions several galaxies are moving towards one another to form clusters; elsewhere there is emptiness.

On the conventional view,



Richard Leadbetter

this is simply a consequence of chance. At the Big Bang, some parts of the expansion would have been a little faster and others a little slower, so that there would have been irregularities from the start. To begin with, these would have formed galaxies; afterwards galaxies themselves would have begun to form clusters. But last year a group of astronomers working with Donald Lynden-Bell at Cambridge were perplexed to find that many of the brightest (and therefore closest) galaxies are moving at speeds of hundreds of miles a second towards a wholly unremarkable point in the sky mockingly called the "Great Attractor".

The simplest explanation for this common motion of the nearest galaxies is that mere chance accounts for what is happening. Because galaxies

are scattered across the sky according to some statistical law, any group of galaxies chosen at random will have some overall velocity but will be travelling in a random direction, not towards some "Great Attractor".

But the more galaxies are taking part in the common motion, the smaller this random velocity will be, if chance alone is the explanation. The probability that a group as big as that studied by Lynden-Bell would have a velocity as large as it is would be so small as to stretch credulity.

The Hoffman-Zurek explanation stretches credulity in a different way. Physicists have not yet settled on any one theory to describe particles of matter with very high energy, as would be required to account for the hot dense matter in the early moments after the Big Bang, but cosmic string is one possibility.

If cosmic string exists, it would have been made in large quantities during the Big Bang. Hoffman and Zurek suggest that at least one loop of it was made and is now floating in the sky about 50 million light years away from us, pulling galaxies towards it. It may even be possible to find the string. Although infinitesimally thin, it would be dense enough to bend light rays, so that scrutiny of the sky near the "Great Attractor" should reveal a chain of doubled and distorted images of distant galaxies.

DAVID LINDLEY

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THE NEW SILK ROAD

In the professional jargon of strategic thinkers, the "bipolar" postwar world is turning "multipolar". With the relative decline of American wealth and power and the regrouping of Soviet ambitions and resources under Mikhail Gorbachev, some of the assumptions based on the dominance of just two superpowers are being replaced by those which recognize the arrival of others, principally China and Japan. The makers of Japanese foreign policy — now led by Prime Minister Takeshita who is visiting London this week — would like a more politically cohesive Europe to join this group, although they are prone to underestimate the difficulties involved in trying to weld Europe into anything remotely resembling a superpower.

They are keen on this because they see the leadership of the non-Communist west being led by a triumvirate of the United States, Japan and Europe. Mr Takeshita's three-country tour of Europe is part of a Japanese diplomatic offensive designed to reheat their relations with a continent which they neglected while concentrating on their bilateral ties (and trade quarrels) with the Americans.

Broad strategy is not the only reason behind this adjustment. The gathering pace of Japanese inward investment in Europe — more of it coming to Britain than to anywhere else — requires deeper political and cultural ties. The Japanese, much like many businessmen inside Europe itself, have woken up with a start to the implications of 1992.

They are worried that the lowering of internal barriers will be matched by the creation or consolidation of external walls aimed at excluding Japanese imports. Mr Takeshita may have been talking about future cultural exchange when he hoped that there would be a new "Silk Road" between Japan and Europe, but the traffic of goods must also have been in his mind.

Mr Takeshita's speech at the Mansion House was a broad-ranging statement of intent; specific detail was confined to uncontroversial, secondary matters. But British policy-makers need to work quickly on its practical implications. There are now just under 70 Japanese firms manufacturing in Britain, the great majority having arrived here

during the 1980s. They are estimated to have created or safeguarded around 20,000 jobs. One of the principal reasons they are coming to any European country is to secure access to the whole European market.

If this trend is encouraged, Britain stands to gain several potential benefits. Japan is now the second largest investor in the United Kingdom after the United States; could some of this investment help create jobs and business in the inner cities?

There are benefits beyond jobs. Japan exports to the countries in which it invests managerial, labour relations and technological expertise which rubs off on Britain. The closer the economic relationship between the two countries, the better the means of communication should become for the resolution of the bilateral trade disputes which will continue to occur; also, the more frequent the opportunities for Britain to keep up the pressure for the expansion of Japanese domestic demand to the advantage of its own exporters.

There is one caveat. Our disproportionate share of Japan's investment will only be maintained if Britain can be the "gateway", not only into Europe's markets but also into its political decision-making. For the time being, Europe is preoccupied with the 1992 Single Market deadline. But after that come further choices between leaving it at that — a European free trade area — and further political integration.

Japan is likely to want a broader and deeper economic linkage with a country which is fully involved with European development. Turning away from Europe might mean turning away from Japan — and the economic advantages it can bring.

Japan is economically powerful but very dependent on importing resources to run its economy. Its small military capacity will not be expanded for some time to come, if at all. Its foreign policy development will, therefore, not follow conventional lines.

The rest of the western world is still waiting to see whether Japan's contribution to western economic and physical security will be taken to the point where it entails some risks and may even create some enemies. At the moment, intentions are ahead of actions.

FEEES BY RESULTS

At the basis of the legal aid system is the principle that access to courts of law for the redress of wrongs should be freely open to citizens regardless of their means. This principle is not, however, applied in practice.

Those judged poor enough to have the backing of legal aid are looked after. But those without such backing are likely to find recourse to the courts so expensive that the cost rather than the justice of the case will determine the outcome. The legal profession has for too long complacently accepted this.

Those who suffer most from this state of affairs are those in the middle range of income and wealth, who are neither so rich that legal costs are easily paid nor so poor that legal aid will pay the bills. Leaving equity aside, if the middle income classes are at a disadvantage in the pursuit of legal rights, it is a serious handicap to the proper development of the legal system itself. It is particularly through this more articulate and educated section of the population that the regulatory values and standards of society are most likely to be carried forward from generation to generation.

Those values rest on a common conception of the rights of the individual, particularly in relation to public authority and the power of the State. But to mean anything, those rights have to be capable of being claimed. They cannot be so claimed, if the cost is such as to bring ruin in the event of a failure.

Many justifiable claims currently go unpursued. The use of the appropriate legal mechanisms for deciding between conflicting

personal rights is neglected. The expansion of the power of both State and private agencies over the individual is insufficiently challenged.

An Aberdeen solicitor has just announced a scheme of his own devising which, if successful, may come to be seen as a key move in the solution of this problem. He proposes to negotiate with his clients agreements whereby they will pay him, according to the success of his efforts on their behalf, what is known as a contingency fee. This is quite customary in the United States, and yet abhorrent to the controlling bodies of the legal profession in Britain, for reasons which, to say the least, deserve close review.

The presumption ought to be strongly in favour of any method of payment which brings greater access to justice, as a contingency fee system certainly would do. Although the example of so-called "ambulance chasing" lawyers in the United States is a distasteful one, even that is not necessarily any more than a rather vulgar demonstration of the proper operation of a market, of supply and demand seeking each other out for mutual benefit. Who is to say that the potential client in the ambulance is ill-served by the prompt offer of legal assistance? Who, exactly, is being harmed?

A contingency fee system would still need supervision, as do all markets which impinge on the public interest. The Aberdeen initiative looks like an idea whose time has come. The legal profession would be wiser to make room for it than to make war on it.

TABLE OF PEACE

To persuade representatives of Cuba and Angola to sit and discuss their mutual difficulties, or South Africa and the United States, would scarcely raise an eyebrow. But to persuade government and military representatives of all four countries to spend two days round a table together discussing a basis for peace in southern Africa is a considerable feat. That the talks did not break up, but yielded progress and agreement on a venue for another round, is an even greater feat and one for which all the participants can take credit.

A framework for solving some of the many problems which beset southern Africa has been apparent for several years. If Angola's Marxist Government could be convinced to do without Cuban troops in its war against UNITA, then maybe South Africa would cease to regard even a left-leaning Angola as the thin end of the Communist wedge in southern Africa. Similarly, if South Africa could be convinced to grant Namibia genuine independence, then one of the chief perceived threats to the security of Angola in the form of a proxy South African state would loom less large.

If both these changes could be effected concurrently, then the one could be traded against the other and the bargain, if kept, would serve to foster mutual trust. The result would be a south-west African detente in which security and trust would grow and promote prosperity. That, at least, was the theory. Until now, however, none of the many parties involved had shown any interest in putting it to the practical test. A number of factors have coincided to change this.

Both South Africa and Angola have to count the cost of continued war in political and economic terms. The South African rand has fallen sharply against world currencies; it is no longer as rich a country as it was. Moreover, every raid it launches outside its borders

reduces the little international respectability it still enjoys.

Angola, after 13 years of civil war, faces bankruptcy. Its population faces hunger. With the Soviet Union under Mr Gorbachev appearing to distance itself from its clients in the less developed world, the Angolan regime can have no guarantee either of unlimited supplies of arms to continue the civil war, or of sufficient food to feed its people. It needs peace.

The same draught from Moscow is starting to cool the revolutionary ardour of the Cuban leadership, too. Fidel Castro would undoubtedly prefer an internationally agreed withdrawal of his troops from Africa to one enforced either by defeat in Angola or by economic exigency at home.

Regular discussion of regional issues by the two superpowers was one of the unsung achievements of the first Reagan-Gorbachev summit meeting in Geneva two and a half years ago. The relative neglect of the subject by the world's media since then appears to have had a benign influence. The first and greatest result of the "regional talks" was last month's agreement on a Soviet military withdrawal from Afghanistan, to be guaranteed by the United States and the Soviet Union with the support of the United Nations. The second was the promise of some progress towards an international conference on the Middle East.

In view of the progress made in recent weeks, the third could well be the promise of peace in the south-western corner of Africa. The fact that only four parties are directly involved (with the Soviet Union a shadow in the background), means that southern Africa could even overtake the Middle East as the next centre for superpower peace-making. What matters most now is that the momentum set in London should not be lost.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How children improve at English

From the Chairman of the National Association for the Teaching of English
Sir, Like the Kingman committee *The Times* (editorial, April 30) rightly rejects the prescriptive grammar teaching of the past. Yet in pressing for a "a sensible curriculum that teaches them all basic grammar" (all pupils or all basic grammar?) and also spelling, punctuation and handwriting, you make two ill-founded and dangerous assumptions.

The first is that there exists a large body of teachers of English unconcerned to help their pupils write correctly. This is simply not the case. I have yet to meet the teacher for whom "anything goes". However, there is now a far greater awareness that good writing demands more than correctness in grammar, spelling, punctuation and handwriting.

Children need to learn how to handle structures larger than the sentence, how to take into account what the reader might be expected to know and infer, and how to meet the very different demands of forms as varied as argument and personal narrative. All this the Kingman report recognises and for this we warmly welcome it.

You also assume that those teachers of English who do not transmit to their pupils a set of explicitly formulated grammatical rules are joined in a hypocritical conspiracy to deny them access to their educational right, an effective command of Standard English. Yet every piece of evidence the Kingman committee received took it as axiomatic that all pupils have a right to learn to speak and write in Standard English.

But the better informed rejected the seductive plausibility of your view that the ability to formulate a rule explicitly is a necessary precondition of proficiency in its use. For a mass of evidence exists to show that this is not how children gain command of new syntactic forms.

They learn by encountering lively examples of language in use and having occasion to use the new forms for their own purposes. Certainly explicit knowledge of grammatical rules does not prevent the learner from producing inadvertent ambiguity such as that quoted in your editorial.

As measured by any available yardstick, standards in the teach-

ing of English are rising: the evidence of the examination boards and the Assessment of Performance Unit at the Department of Education and Science shows that our children write and read better than their predecessors. But the world outside the school gates changes at electronic speed. In employment, in study, and in the course of their daily social lives, demands are made on the literacy of our school-leavers which they are not always able to meet. Complacency within the profession is no answer. We know that we must become even more professional if we are to do our pupils justice. So we welcome the extensive proposals for in-service courses put forward by Kingman. But the way forward must be well-informed. We cannot afford to lay down curriculum content on which or apparent common sense. Yours faithfully,
HENRIETTA DOMBEY,
Chairman,
National Association for the Teaching of English,
49 Broomgrove Road,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire,
April 30.

From Mr. J. W. Skillington
Sir, Those learning foreign languages need a fairly detailed knowledge of grammar. Once it was obtained in learning Latin, but that is not now available to any extent.

Clause analysis, whether in English or Latin, is one of the best ways of learning to find the exact meaning of a passage and of clarifying thought and expression.

In this connection it is noteworthy that the development of clear and possible English in writing and in speech took place when a classical education was general. Scientists benefited, among others, from Newton to Darwin.

From personal experience I have always found grammar lessons enjoyable and intellectually stimulating, both when taught and as a teacher. Most pupils are interested in the nature, structure and fascinating make-up of their own language, particularly when the teacher is interested too! Yours faithfully,
J. W. SKILLINGTON,
20 Morley Street,
Kettering,
Northamptonshire,
April 29.

RSC protest

From the Director of the British Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa
Sir, It is to be regretted that Bernard Levin should wish, so strenuously, to discredit the sincerity and commitment of the Royal Shakespeare Company ("All the world's a stage", April 28).

That oppression and racial discrimination are practised in many countries is not in question. Nor is it in question that apartheid South Africa implements a system of institutionalised racism which governs every aspect of the lives of those who live under it. It has one of the most all-embracing and sophisticated forms of economic, political and social control in the world and this is maintained by state violence.

The report of the Commonwealth Group of Eminent Persons describes apartheid thus: "As a

contrivance of social engineering, it is awesome in its cruelty. It is achieved and sustained only through force, creating human misery and deprivation and blighting the lives of millions."

Why should the statement in protest against the invitation extended to the South African Ambassador, on the occasion of Shakespeare's birthday, and delivered by Anthony Sher on behalf of the company, be targeted for attack?

Would not Mr Levin have objected if, in 1938, a theatre company invited the German Ambassador to Shakespeare's birthday performance and a Nazi flag was flown? I hope he would have done. Yours faithfully,
ETHEL DE KEYSER, Director,
British Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa,
22 The Ivories,
6-8 Northampton Street, N1,
April 29.

Hair of the dog

From Mrs Ann Lee
Sir, Mrs de Bunsen, (April 22) might be interested to know that there are guilds of weavers, spinners and dyers throughout Britain, and abroad.

Men, women, and in some cases children, spin, weave, knit and crochet wool, silk, cotton and flax, and in addition the more unusual fibres, such as mohair, alpaca, angora rabbit or dog hair.

Many of the resulting garments are covetable, and some are of course quality.

I am sure Mrs de Bunsen's neighbour derived great satisfaction from making and wearing her dog-hair gloves. Yours faithfully,
ANN LEE,
Chairman,
Lincolnshire Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers,
Revesby Park,
Boston, Lincolnshire,
April 23.

From Mrs L. C. Christie
Sir, Gilbert White, of Selborne, wrote in his diary for May 15, 1788:

"Sheared my mongrel dog Rover, and made use of his white hair in plaster for the ceilings. His coat weighed four ounces. The N.E. wind makes Rover shiver."

Yours faithfully,
L. C. CHRISTIE,
Church Cottage,
Great Henny,
Sudbury, Suffolk,
April 27.

From Mrs Joyce Robson
Sir, Apropos the recent correspondence, my neighbour bought her daughter a vivid turquoise-blue angora jumper, which unaccountably went into small holes after it was washed and dried on the clothes-line.

When I cleared my blue tins' box in the autumn their nest lining solved the mystery! Yours faithfully,
JOYCE ROBSON,
2 Runnymede Close,
Whitton,
Twickenham, Middlesex,
April 26.

Not wanted as a magistrate

From Mr T. D. O'Leary
Sir, I was interested to see Miss Gibb's report (April 28) on the recruitment drive for new JPs. In particular I was intrigued to learn that nominations are invited from "people in all walks of life who are thought to have the qualities and the time to serve as JPs."

My own experience may, in the context, be instructive. I completed my term as High Commissioner in New Zealand (and Western Samoa and as Governor of Pitcairn) at the end of last year and expect to retire, at the mandatory age limit of 60, in August of this year.

A number of local residents in my long-established home town of Petworth, in West Sussex, suggested that with the background of experience I have had in looking after the interests of British communities overseas during 35 years in the Diplomatic Service, and with the plentiful free time which will shortly be my lot, whether I wish it or not, I should put my name forward to the

appropriate body in West Sussex. After reflection I did so.

The response was a courteous but dismissive letter from the clerk explaining that the Lord Chancellor would appoint nobody past the age of 60 and that since there was to be no meeting to consider nominations in West Sussex until next year, by which time I should have reached 60, I would be ineligible. So it seems I and my age group are *hors de combat* without entering the lists.

Do the Lord Chancellor's advisers really believe that many people engaged in earning a daily living in commerce or industry or farming and bringing up a family are likely to find the time needed for training and subsequently sitting as a lay justice?

It is, surely, the mature generation who have had a lifetime of practical experience and now have the leisure to use that experience coupled with the reflective disposition that comes with maturity who are particularly suited to the bench.

Yours faithfully,
TERENCE O'LEARY,
Travellers' Club,
Falmouth, SW1.

ON THIS DAY

MAY 5 1873

The Modoc war (1872-73) consisted of a series of battles between the Modoc Indians and the US Army. The Americans wanted to force the Modoc back to their Oregon reservation. In October, after their final submission, Chief Kintpuash ("Captain Jack") was hanged.

THE MODOC WAR.

(From Our American Correspondent.)
PHILADELPHIA, April 15.

The treacherous murder of General Canby by the Modoc Indians while he was engaged in a peace conference with their Chiefs has filled the country with horror, and has suddenly arrested the "Indian peace policy." For several weeks peace negotiations have been going on with the Modocs. The latter were in their stronghold in the lava beds, near Lake Tule, in Northern California, while the Army was encamped on the verge of the lava beds.

On the 10th of April five Modoc Indians and four squaws came into the camp, and as was the custom, presents of clothing and provisions were made to them by the Peace Commissioners. When they left, a message was sent by them to the Modoc Chiefs asking for a "talk" the next morning at a place about one mile in advance of the picket line. Subsequently, one of the Modoc Chiefs, "Bogus Charley", came into the camp, gave up his musket, and said he did not intend going back any more. This was thought to be a surrender on his part, and he remained all night in the camp. Next morning, the 11th of April, "Boston Charley", another Modoc Chief, came in, and announced that Captain Jack, the Modoc Commander, and five other Indians would meet the Peace Commissioners for their "talk." The two "Charleys" then mounted horses, and started for the lava bed. About an hour afterwards the Peace Commissioners started for the place designated, they being General Canby, the Rev. Dr. Eleazar Thomas, Mr. A. B. Meacham, and Mr. Dyer. A friendly Indian named Frank Riddle and his squaw accompanied them as interpreters. The party arrived and met Captain Jack and his warriors, the conference being closely watched by the signal officers from the top of a high hill near the camp. About half an hour after the "talk" began a cry was raised from the signal station, the officers shouting that the Indians had attacked the Peace Commissioners. In a moment the troops were under arms, were deployed as skirmishers, and orders were given to advance at double quick. As they advanced, Mr. Dyer came running towards them, and said he thought he was the only one who had escaped. Frank Riddle and his squaw next came within the line, and they told the story of the Indians' perfidy.

Mr. Meacham at the conference had made a short speech to the Indians, followed by General Canby and Dr. Thomas. Then Captain Jack spoke, asking for certain territory, when Mr. Meacham told him it was not possible to give him what he asked. "Schouchen", one of the Chiefs, told Mr. Meacham to say no more. While "Schouchen" was speaking, Captain Jack got up and walked behind the other Indians, and suddenly exclaiming "all ready," he drew a pistol and snapped a cap at General Canby. He cocked the pistol and fired a second time, shooting Canby under the eye, and the General fell dead. It was the work of a moment only, and almost instantly "Schouchen" shot Meacham in the shoulder and head, inflicting a mortal wound. "Boston Charley" and another Indian shot and killed Dr. Thomas. Mr. Dyer endeavoured to escape, when "Hooker Jim" chased him some distance, but Dyer turned upon him, pistol in hand, and Jim ran.

Sight to forget

From Mr N. H. Rogers
Sir, Mr Mein's suggestion (April 29), that the bunker on Horse Guards Parade be demolished and in its place a memorial be built to honour Churchill, is excellent. This society has invited Mr Mein to expound his ideas further at our AGM.

Like Mr Mein we too have long held the view that the Government should give serious thought to erecting a beautiful and dignified national memorial to Churchill. We on our part are engaged in planning an annual Churchill Memorial Service in St Paul's Cathedral.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant.
NORMAN HARVEY ROGERS,
International Churchill Society,
18 Grove Lane,
Ipswich, Suffolk.

Attention to detail

From Ms Alison Kean
Sir, Recently, when arriving at Victoria Station from Clapham Junction, courtesy of British Rail's new, and supposedly slicker, morning commuter service — originating I think in Network SouthEast (time) Zone three — I have been amused to hear the driver announce:

Ladies and gentlemen, in a few minutes' time we shall be arriving at London Victoria. Local time is 9.20 am. Please ensure that you take all hand baggage with you when you leave.

Is this not taking the "catch the train and you've caught the plane" quip a little too far?

Yours faithfully,
ALISON KEAN,
125 Leathwaite Road, SW11.

Douche technik

From Mr James Page-Roberts
Sir, My windscreen has today been sprayed twice by jets from the car in front. Such generosity and public spirit should be applauded. Yours faithfully,
JAMES PAGE-ROBERTS,
Skamore House,
Tangley,
Andover, Hampshire,
April 28.

Enter the Metaphor

From Mr J. F. Riison
Sir, Your correspondent (April 25) may have overlooked the following: gaggles of cloud; woggles of cloud; splodges of cloud; slots (referring to special areas); ther seavening and ther seavening: references to Yorkshire, Lincolnshire etc. I should say that "gaggles" appear to have been superseded (*sic*), possibly because someone pointed out that gaggles are not airborne, as are skeins. Yours faithfully,
J. F. RITSON,
1 North View,
Barnard Castle, Co. Durham.

HEALTH

Married to cancer

Cancer sufferers are the centre of attention this week; but their partners and relationships, reports Ann Kent, are often victims too

This is Europe Against Cancer week, when we are invited to focus our attention on the disease and those who suffer from it.

But cancer has hidden victims — the partners and spouses of those who are actually being treated. Their own pain — and their often enormous contribution to a patient's care and recovery — is frequently overlooked or forgotten. While cancer patients may expect and deserve sympathy and support from friends and relatives, their spouses, who will also experience feelings of helplessness, bewilderment and fear, are rarely considered.

To those of us who neither have cancer, nor have partners with cancer, it seems extraordinary that anyone could walk out on a sufferer. In fact the disease — or perhaps more precisely, coping with the disease — takes a heavy toll of relationships. The most recent famous casualty is the marriage of trainer and ex-jockey Jonjo O'Neill, who separated from his wife Sheila after nine years of marriage because, it has been reported, of the stress surrounding his treatment for the cancer of the lymph glands which was discovered two years ago. Jockey Bob Champion's victory over testicular cancer did not extend to his marriage, which collapsed some years after he was given the medical all-clear.

Dr Maurice Slevin, a cancer physician at St Bartholomew's Hospital, and chairman of the counselling charity Bacup, believes the diagnosis of cancer is a life crisis for both the patient and the patient's partner. "It puts a tremendous strain on a relationship. In general those who are very close start to become closer, while those who already have difficulties move further apart."

"Unlike heart attacks or road traffic accidents, cancer and its treatments can drag on for years. People are often at their best in a crisis, and when cancer is diagnosed everyone rallies round. When it happens again and again, there is less support."

Dr Slevin points out that there is another, unexpected aspect to cancer which may explain the delayed effect which some marriages seem to experience. Once a patient has come successfully through treatment, there can be personality changes which from the patient's perspective are changes for the better. The patient becomes almost evangelical about how beauti-



Hurdles ahead: Jonjo and Sheila O'Neill's marriage failed the test

I think to hell with most things now

ful life is, and how important it is not to fritter away your time on trivialities. However, living with a born-again personality can cause problems. One of Slevin's breast cancer patients used to be a rather meek "traditional" wife, who was content to follow her husband round the golf course and who could always be relied on to be at home when needed. After her treatment, she decided she wanted to get much more out of life. She took up pony trekking, and was no longer at home when her husband needed her. Her marriage is now under strain.

In the case of the Unsworths, it is the spouse who has undergone the personality change. Stella Unsworth's husband, Sam, was not expected to live after multiple myeloma was diagnosed. He was one of three patients to be offered a draconian new form of chemotherapy. The other two

died, while Sam Unsworth's side effects included burst stomach ulcers, pneumonia, a brain haemorrhage and a stroke. He says that without his wife he does not think he would have survived treatment.

Stella Unsworth says that she was told on at least three occasions that her husband was not going to live. "Even after he was home he had to go back to the hospital every couple of days, and he was so weak that I used to shower him and dry him as if he was a baby. I didn't mind that. I was so grateful to have him back."

"I thought his personality would change more, but he still lets little things get to him. But I don't. I think to hell with most things now. And I have no patience with people who moan about trivialities."

Cancer has a "swings and roundabouts" effect on relationships; any

damage done has little to do with the real or imagined mutilations of the disease. Dr Clare Moynihan, a medical sociologist at the Institute of Cancer Research, studied the effects of testicular cancer on the mental welfare of 102 patients. She found that 62 per cent of them reported improved personal relationships, while another 17 per cent ended a serious relationship after developing cancer. The men were more upset by the real or threatened prospect of unemployment following a lengthy illness than by the loss of a testicle. And their partners agreed that the loss had no effect on their own sexual desires. Publishing her findings in *Cancer Surveys* 1987, Moynihan wrote: "Many relatives revealed a need to be involved in discussions with the doctor, especially at initial diagnosis and during treatment... we feel that families of sufferers should be offered formal support of some kind."

Dr Steven Greer, a psychiatrist at the Royal Marsden Hospital, believes that far too little attention is paid to the spouse or partner of the person with cancer — and that lack of communication is a very common problem. Greer is conducting a trial into the value of psychotherapy for cancer patients — and partners and spouses are included in the sessions. He is aiming to establish whether it is possible to influence survival prospects by building up the patient's mental defences. The spouse's supportive role in this process may be complicated, however, by Greer's finding that while "about two thirds" of patients say they would like their spouses included in his sessions, "the others say they want to deal with their feelings about cancer on their own". Moynihan discovered something similar: nearly a third of the patients she interviewed preferred to go outside the family circle to express their emotions.

Slevin stresses, however, that the effects of a shared cancer experience are more likely to pull people together than force them apart. "Many patients have told me their relationship is better now than it has ever been."

Dr Amanda Ramirez, a lecturer in psychosocial oncology at Guy's Hospital, agrees: "I often see patients at the breast cancer clinic if anything has improved in their lives. They say that family relationships, and particularly the relationship with their husbands, have improved."

This observation is of more than passing interest. For while little research has been done into the long-term effects of the disease on a partner's physical health, research has shown that married cancer sufferers survive longer than single people. Dr Ramirez and her colleagues believe one possibility is that the presence of a partner encourages the cancer patient to persist with treatment. The other explanation is that a stable, happy marriage protects against the stresses of the disease, and that this in itself influences survival rates.

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Hepatitis hazard

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

Reports of Russell Harty's acute liver failure and hepatitis will have caused alarm among the many people who catch hepatitis every year. But most sufferers have hepatitis A — they feel dreadful for a few weeks, tired for a few months and then make a complete recovery. Hepatitis is not a precise diagnosis, but a descriptive term of the pathological processes which are damaging the liver. When doctors use the term hepatitis they usually mean viral hepatitis, but may of course be referring to other diseases which produce a destructive inflammation of the liver, but which they would rather not describe in detail. Viral hepatitis itself can be divided into hepatitis A, hepatitis B, or hepatitis Non-A, Non-B. Non-A, Non-B itself is probably caused by at least two different viruses. Hepatitis A is what the general public thinks of as "jaundice", which occurs in epidemics or outbreaks and which patients catch from eating food contaminated by sewage. It can therefore be water-borne and is particularly common in areas where standards of food hygiene and preparation are lax. Although theoretically it can be passed on by blood and other body secretions, this rarely happens in practice. The patient is most infectious before the jaundice appears. In hepatitis A once the patient has turned yellow the amount of the virus shed by him or her is already waning. Hepatitis A has no persistent carrier state, and although the disease can be very debilitating at the time it usually has no long-term ill effects.

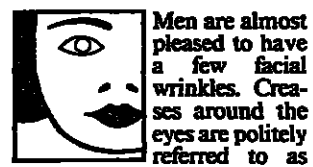
Hepatitis B is the more serious disease, and many patients who have it remain carriers. The

disease is common among doctors, nurses, hospital workers, drug addicts, prostitutes and homosexuals. It is transmitted by blood and semen and may also be present in other body secretions. It occasionally leads to cirrhosis in later life, and if caught in early childhood may well develop into malignant diseases of the liver in middle or old age. Little is known about hepatitis Non-A, Non-B, but it is thought to be spread in the same way as hepatitis A, by faecal contamination. It can lead to permanent liver damage in a small percentage of cases.

All types of hepatitis start with a feeling of absolute wretchedness, nausea, headache, anorexia, diarrhoea, and vomiting and fever. After three to 10 days jaundice appears, when the patient starts to feel better. Treatment of hepatitis, of whatever type, is general nursing care and the maintenance of the correct fluid and electrolyte balance. Steroids may have some limited use.

If a patient's immune system is compromised for whatever reason, the disease may run a less favourable course. Recrudescence hepatitis is the condition in which after apparent recovery the jaundice may persist, waxing and waning for some little time. In these cases recovery is the rule. Fulminant hepatitis is a rare condition which sometimes complicates cases of hepatitis B or Non-A, Non-B. In this there is a recurrence of the jaundice, massive destruction of the liver, and involvement of the brain, which may lead to coma. If the patient recovers, which is by no means certain, the final outlook is surprisingly good.

In the pink



Men are almost pleased to have a few facial wrinkles. Creases around the eyes are politely referred to as "laugh lines" and are thought to show character; 40 years ago the post-war generation even used to cultivate "squadron leader's eyes", as they were then known, the implication being that they had been honourably won by peering through binoculars into the sun of the western desert.

Women have never seen them in the same light. To them a creased, wrinkled, leathery skin was merely an ageing skin, and dermatologists, who tended to agree with them, suggested that applying a facial cream in an attempt to restore a youthful complexion was as hopeless as flogging a dead horse. But recently a cream has been introduced which offers a degree of hope that some of the minor creases, not the major furrows, may be ironed out if it is applied regularly.

The *Lancet* has reviewed the use of tretinoin, a retinoid vitamin A derivative which is supplied either as a cream or a solution and is available from dermatologists. It has been hailed as a preparation which can retard, or even reverse, the ageing effect of sun and weather on the skin. Some doctors feel that it does no more than cause a redness and minor swelling of the skin which obliterates the creases, but others will quote experimental evidence, including double blind studies, which show there was a clinical improvement in the skin when tretinoin was applied, and an apparent reversal of effects of both the sun and the passage of the years.

The *Lancet* warns that in mice use of tretinoin has occasionally resulted in the formation of skin tumours.

but this has not been a consistent finding, and as yet there has been no indication of similar ill effects in women. It advocates caution in its use but also seems to acknowledge that demand for a youthful appearance is so strong that its advice is likely to be disregarded.

Simple solution

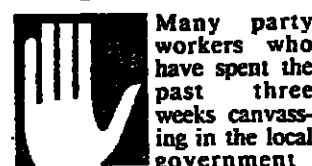


The general public receives much of its medical education from the media, but press reports on disease tend to be selective; a description of glue ear in children, or even a discussion of the relative merits of different types of contraceptive pill, are acceptable breakfast time reading, but Aids when it was first reported in the States was definitely not. One common and often very troublesome problem is *Gardnerella vaginalis* which, because of its symptoms, is never mentioned. But a recent survey reported in the *BMJ* by Dr R.R. West, Dr T.C. O'Dowd and Sister J.E. Small of the University of Wales College of Medicine showed that of 182 women randomly selected from a general practice in Cardiff, 60 had bacteriological evidence of *Gardnerella* infection, and 26 had symptoms. *Gardnerella vaginalis* is associated with a profuse vaginal discharge, often misdiagnosed by the patient, and sometimes even by the doctor, as thrush; in many cases it causes no serious problems but in others it is the cause of an irritating discharge with a characteristic odour, normally described as fishy, occasionally as over-ripe cheese; associated with the discharge is genital discomfort, swelling and pain on intercourse.

Doctors argue as to whether *Gardnerella* itself causes the symptoms or whether it is merely an indicator of a

generalized, non-specific vaginal infection, labelled by the medical profession as a bacterial vaginosis; but whatever the terminology the trouble is easily treated with metronidazole (Flagyl) and comfort is soon restored. Some physicians recommend treating the patient's partner as a routine measure at the same time, others advocate this only if the woman's problems are recurrent.

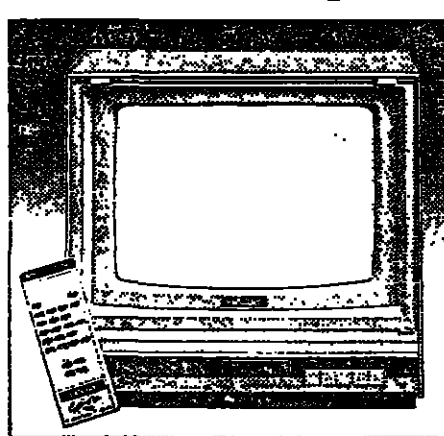
Finger traps



Many party workers who have spent the past three weeks canvassing in the local government elections will be nursing bruised and even lacerated fingers when they attend the count tonight. Furling letters through letterboxes is not the simplest task it was when letterbox flaps relied on gravity to keep them shut; the modern letterbox has a spring-loaded flap, which can be so stiff that catching the fingers in it causes quite a serious injury. Mr D. Menzies, a surgical registrar at the Westminster Hospital, writing in the *British Medical Journal*, has described two postmen he has had to treat recently: one had amputated the tip of his left middle finger, the other had a finger which needed careful stitching, after both had caught their left hands in the letterbox. Menzies reports that although the problem is often discussed by postmen and described by them to their doctors, it has previously only received publicity when a parliamentary candidate caught his finger during a general election campaign. He suggests that it should be possible to determine the strength of spring needed to stop a letterbox flap from rattling, without being so strong that there was a danger of it snapping off the end of a postman's finger.

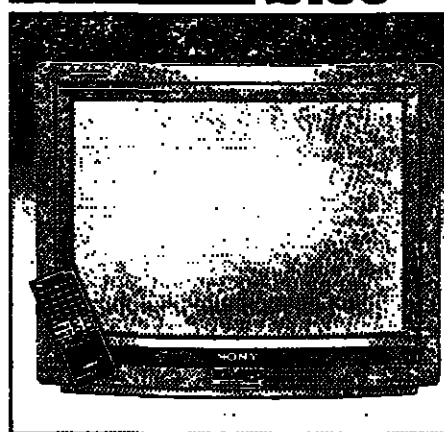
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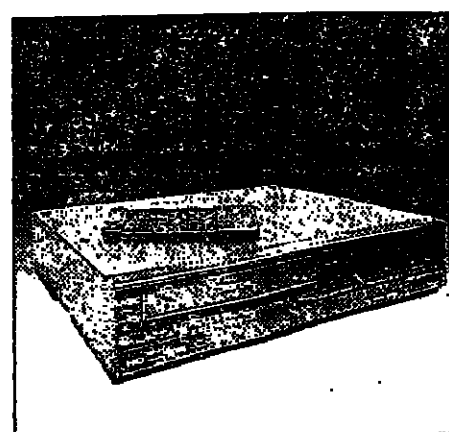
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TOMORROW



Barbara Amiel: where does charity begin now?

Elizabeth Blacklaw, a general practice nurse and mother of three, is the kind of down-to-earth type who tends to laugh at the idea that she may have made history.

Yet Blacklaw, 53, was one of a group of volunteers who took part in the research trials of a new slimming pill at a Dundee hospital. The results announced this week have excited the scientific and medical communities who had come to regard a safe, sure-fire slimming aid almost as the 20th-century equivalent of the Elixir of Life, an inspired idea but unobtainable.

Blacklaw took three capsules of BRL 26830A a day for 18 weeks, while at the same time following a low fat, high fibre diet of between 800 and 900 calories a day. At the end of the period her weight had dropped from 15 stone to 11.5lb, her dress size from 20 to 16.

On average the other 15 volunteers who had taken the drug lost 34lb, 50 per cent more than the control group who had dieted but taken only a placebo.

Blacklaw not only looked much better, she also felt extremely well. The drug, which works by speeding up the human metabolic rate, had no unwanted side effects in her case, she said.

"I'd tried to diet before but I'd always fallen by the wayside after a few days," Blacklaw said. "What was good about this was that the rate at which I was losing kept up my morale. I didn't even weigh myself very much; I could tell by my skirt bands I was getting thinner."

It is just over a year since the trial ended and her weight has gone back up by half a stone. "But I'm much happier with the way I look. I would have gone on taking them for ever if it had meant being slyph-like."

A pill worth the weight?

A new slimming drug has shown drastic results among the overweight. But does its success really mean the death of the diet?

Obesity specialist and consultant endocrinologist Dr Roland Jung, who headed the research team at Ninewells Hospital, found the pills so popular that there were even a few years when patients had to stop.

The human trials, mainly on women in their forties, have borne out what animal experiments had already suggested: that the drug increases the metabolic rate so that the body converts excess fat into heat. Other such thermogenic drugs already exist, but they cause palpitations and therefore cannot be given in large doses or for any length of time. "This new drug appears to have had no adverse effects on the heart," Jung said. Neither did it raise cholesterol levels, blood pressure or pulse. There were no signs of muscle wasting or weakness, and those taking it felt no hungrier than the control group. Ending the course brought no unpleasant withdrawal symptoms.

Another attractive aspect of the drug was that its effective-



Blacklaw: happy guinea-pig

ness appeared to increase the longer it was taken, a major advantage since traditionally weight is shed more easily at the beginning of a slimming programme than later on. The only drawback appeared to be a slight shake which developed in 12 out of the 16 volunteers, but that disappeared after a couple of weeks and was regarded as severe in only one patient.

At around 16 stone Jung's patients were in the moderately obese class but he believes there is no reason why the drug should not work at lower weights. "Those who wish to lose just a stone or so would simply take it for a shorter period of time."

There is still much debate as to what exactly causes obesity. Most experts say that it invariably involves some degree of over-eating, and many are unconvinced by claims of naturally sluggish metabolisms.

"But in a way we've bypassed the debate with this drug," Jung says. "It takes the body's natural fuel which is fat

and makes it burn up more quickly. We've found metabolic rates have increased by between 10 and 20 per cent."

Researchers are still not certain exactly how the drug works and far more extensive trials involving thousands of patients are needed. This means, of course, that the drug's availability for general use is still some years away, and it is expected that when it does come on to the market it will initially be obtainable on prescription only. None the less if it fulfils its promise it could revolutionize the slimming industry and prove a vast money-maker for its producer, Beecham.

In theory it should work even without any actual dieting; in practice Jung believes this is hard to achieve. "Unless you are really watching what you are eating it's all too easy to start eating more to compensate for the increased metabolic rate. It's not a cheater's charter."

Liz Gill

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DOG WOOF FRAUD CHARGE

Yesterday Magistrates were baffled by Snut's claim to have invented "WOOF WOOF" (the World's best new game). Mr RC Jones JP was told that if Uri Geller could bend spoons... that if "Whio" was whiter than white, a dog could surely invent a game. The case was dismissed and within minutes the whole court was playing WOOF WOOF.

WOOF WOOF - available at under 25 at all good Toy Shops.

هكذا من الأصل

BOOKS 1

Richard Holmes on a political view of the rebel poet and lordly libertarian; and also the history of the family Byron cursed

Born to oppose

THE POLITICS OF PARADISE
A Vindication of Byron
By Michael Foot
Collins, £17.50

Michael Foot, the eminent parliamentarian, is a man full of surprises. He once wrote an essay entitled "The Good Tory". (It was a defence of Disraeli, after whom he also named his dog.) He has now commemorated his resignation from the leadership of the Labour Party, by producing a flaming great tome on the radical politics of the late Lord Byron, whose 200th birthday we celebrate.

It is a work of very considerable scholarship, the declared aim of which is to claim Milton, the poet "born for Opposition" (that's *Don Juan*, Canto 15), the defender of the Nottingham frame-breakers and the Ravenna Carbonari, the champion of Greek Independence and the Italian Risorgimento, and the "Romantic realist" whose sceptical theology contained but one certain conviction, that "God" — as Byron once confidently informed his quaking publisher — that "God will not be always a Tory".

It is written with all Mr Foot's old verve and charm, and reminds us plausibly — in case we had forgot — of the sublime, oracular Byron who scanned the horizon and proclaimed:

Yet, Freedom! fly thy banner,
torn, but flying,
Streams like the thunder-storm
against the wind;
Thy trumpet voice, though broken
now and dying,
The loudest still the tempest
leaves behind...

In fact, this strategic retreat to the

literary high ground (till "the good times come again", the phrase is Shelley's), is not altogether surprising to those familiar with the "double" nature of Mr Foot: in 1957 he published a brilliant study of Swift and the Duke of Marlborough, *The Pen and the Sword*, in which he argued that a single pamphlet stopped a European war. In 1973 he completed his great biography of Nye Bevan. And since then he has produced a whole series of accomplished essays on rebel authors and journalists of the 18th and 19th centuries, such as DeFoe, Tom Paine, and his special favourite William Hazlitt.

These works have mostly been the product of his periods in the wilderness, and the idea of refusing debate, of eternal defiance, seems to have inspired much of what is best in the present study. As Mr Foot writes in a key passage on the Russian socialist and exile, Alexander Herzen: "He discovered Byron in the darkest days of his own defeat, and he learnt how to hand on the sacred flame to Garibaldi, to the next generation of Italian revolutionaries who carried the cause to victory. His whole temper is Byronic."

The "sacred flame" is, of course, for Michael Foot essentially political, and this reading of Byron omits, or severely invites, much of the other phosphenescences — the traveller, the bisexual lover, the dilettante, the satanic humorist of the Letters and *Don Juan*. Nevertheless, Mr Foot is far too good a Romantic critic to decline into mere socialist propaganda.



Though he does have his Quixotic eccentricities — Byron as dog-lover is one thing, but Byron as incipient feminist is quite another; and there are those who might find his comparison of Lady B, "the princess of parallelograms", to Mrs T, a touch *outré*.

Yet for the most part his interpretation is historically cogent, and his sense of Byron's intricacy, his self-contradictions, his "ferocious Caravaggio style", is remarkably refreshing. Quoting, with customary originality, from a long section of the poem "Dante's Prophecy", he asks thoughtfully: "Was Byron's predominant interest political, in this instance stirred by his involvement in the movement of Italian liberation, or was he not always obsessed much more with his own exile, and the universal sense of man's exile from truth or a tolerable existence?" It is impossible to follow Mr Foot's deeply personal analysis of such "mighty issues" without fascination and sympathy.

But the book does have two crucial weaknesses. One is its very uneven intellectual structure. The first quarter concentrates exclusively on Hazlitt, as a formidable critic of Byron, but then largely abandons Hazlitt's position for the pious hope that he had actually met Byron (when collaborating on *The Liberal*) their differences would have been reconciled.

There is something Panglossian about this. Mr Foot also seems very uneasy about Shelley's utopian critique of Milton's pessimism — a powerful one — attempting to turn it aside throughout with hushing rhetoric. Moreover, Byron's actual debacle in Greece is dismissed in seven pages — yet this was the real test of his revolutionary spirit.

Secondly, Mr Foot seems to

have lost — or temporarily mislaid — much of the incisive, animated style of his earlier essays. Being neither quite biography nor criticism, the "Vindication" too often drifts into an uplifting, tractarian mode of inspirational discourse, content to display Byron's glittering lines like so many jewels laid in old red velvet. The best writing often appears in the extensive bibliographic footnotes, which go about delivering cuffs and accolades among the Byron scholars with studious partiality and wit. Many of Michael Foot's finest speculations are found here, *au pied de la lettre* so to speak, such as his "thesis" that Byron has always been best understood by women, who are in a sense part of Nature's permanent Opposition, and who will always triumph in the end. A properly subversive thought, from the Old Lucifer himself.

It would be disingenuous to pretend that such a Tract for the

Times as Foot's Byron will not attract much criticism on these, and other, grounds. It is not a book for the faint-hearted, either in politics or poetry. Yet it is written with such evident passion, such generosity of spirit, such a stirring belief in the liberating power of literature, that it should surely be welcomed with open arms — even if it is read at arm's length. But for those of uncontrollably nervous literary disposition, I can also recommend a more conventional treatment, Byron's *Travels* (Sidgwick & Jackson, £14.95) by Allan Massie, to be published later this month. This is a crisp, highly intelligent narrative of Milord's whereabouts and whatabouts in the Mediterranean, with many picturesque and soothing illustrations. It is a book that will drive you abroad, rather than to the barricades. Both destinations have their attractions, as Byron knew.

Born to rule

Charles Bruce

THE ELGINS: 1766-1917
By Sydney Checkland
Aberdeen University, £25

The Elgins tells the story of an ancient Scottish family over a period of 150 years. Fashionable interest in this book will be generated by the chapters on Thomas, the 7th Earl, who gave his name to the Marbles. Though Elgin's reputation has suffered from political invective and historical inaccuracy, Checkland does not try to exonerate him. Instead he restores the balance by presenting a moving story of a man driven by ambition to achieve the highest ideals in public life, but defeated by a conspiracy of misfortune.

Thomas left his heirs an estate, hopelessly over-gearred and saddled with outrageous debts incurred by his Embassy to Constantinople and his subsequent collection by 1827, these had reached £100,000 (£4m in today's prices). From such a morass of penny emerged the 8th Earl, James, whose imperial exploits inspired Checkland to write.

Behind the perceived history of the British Empire — the jingoism and the guilt — there moved men who followed their consciences to improve the lives of subject peoples and minimize the excess of imperial aggression. Both James and his son, Victor Alexander, the 9th Earl, exemplified this character and accepted the highest appointments.

If the Elgins have languished as forgotten personae of a long-departed era, Checkland has resurrected their relevance, and provides a convincing role-model for anyone in public life today. Each Earl eschewed political convenience to follow instincts based on an inherited sense of duty, a wide learning and the solid values of a Scottish upbringing. Checkland has demonstrated the cumulative impact of this family on the course of British history.

Tough but tender singer of blues

There is a wise sadness at the heart of Richard Ford's writing, the knowledge of contemporary American loneliness. The people in this marvellous book of short stories have no fixed points; they have moved away from their childhood town, or their first marriage, and lost track of parents who have usually split up themselves. They live on the fringes of legality, matter of fact about car theft and bad cheques. Motels and inter-state highways are the natural landscape of their lives.

Perhaps the most affecting of the stories are those of childhood recollections; frightening incidents, misunderstood at the time, misshape the lives that follow. "Later I would think I should have gone with her, and that things between them might have been different." Every detail has a kind of tough realism, where people work, what they eat, what they listen to on the car radio. Behind precisely accurate dialogue, Ford lets us make out the vulnerability of people whose tenderness rarely finds expression. A man on the way to jail looks for affection from his divorced wife whom he still loves, in the title

story, a man avoids an argument with the girlfriend who is leaving him. The writing is simple and lyrical in a way that recalls Hemingway without falling into his cadences. "And as I lay in the grey light smoking, while the refrigerator clicked..." Alongside *The Sports Writer*, *Rock Springs* confirms Ford's place among our finest writers.

While Kathy Acker's wit and energy are unmistakable, I can't accept her vision of the world. It is always dodgy to take De Sade as a heroic figure; once writers indulge brutal fantasy in which blood-letting and erotic are conjoined, it is difficult for them to make political objection to anything the CIA might do with the results of Nazi experiments. Acker's story is shared between her heroine, Abhor, raped by her father at 14, who escapes to Algeria to find a landscape of innocence; and Abhor's lover Thirai who runs away to sea as a pirate cheerfully acknowledging his wish to find human beings he can slaughter. They meet from time to time as they travel about a planet racked by lust and cruelty, and make love. However, in pockets of peace

FICTION

Elaine Feinstein

ROCK SPRINGS

By Richard Ford

Collins Harvill, £10.95

EMPIRE OF THE SENSELESS

By Kathy Acker

Picador, £10.95

PUSHKIN HOUSE

By Andrei Bitov

Translated by Susan Brownberger

Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12.95



Ford on the fringes of life

celibacy has come to be preferred because of sexually transmitted diseases. There are some elegant one-line jokes on the way through the novel. I enjoyed "Berne as the Hollywood set for death", and I was intrigued by passages of pastiche Ginsberg: "I saw my friends in that brothel destroyed by madness starving hysterical naked/who descended into nihilism, who descended deeper than nihilism into the grey of yuppie

life." Acker's punk prose, which uses obscenities to replace words like love, undercuts any ordinary expectation of what life could hold for her characters; but since I can't celebrate Algerian revolution in the streets of Paris, and I don't believe in a Day of Allah when there will be no more loneliness, and I can't read the pretty passages of Arabic writing which decorate several pages, the novel left me feeling sick and empty.

The Pushkin House of Bitov's title is a literary institute in Leningrad where the novel opens, the day after annual October Revolution celebrations, with the discovery of the hero's apparently lifeless body. A densely written book, which has notes and epigraphs like scholarly criticism, it teases the reader with alternative stories and different ways of presenting character in a fashion that has become a commonplace in Western post-modernist fiction, but runs altogether against the habits of Soviet realism. This is fitting in a book which is largely about the passage of Soviet time. Bitov, like his hero Lyova, was born at the height of Stalin's purges and graduated from secondary school on the day of Stalin's death. Changes in political behaviour are recorded in habits of conversation, attitudes, and dress with a satirical lightness that I found wholly admirable. I particularly enjoyed the author's awkwardly conflicting memories of a grandfather unjustly sentenced and rehabilitated, and a *tour de force* of a drunken party for several Bitov musters an almost Dostoyevskian energy.

There was a time when the Inspector Wexford mysteries, set in traditional market-town Whodunitland of Kingsmarkham, were clearly distinguishable from Rendell's dark novels exploring criminal psychopathy and obsession. The latest Wexford includes characters and motives which could have strayed out of her other genre. And elderly woman is found garroted in the shopping mall's parking garage; a mother-hated teacher is prime suspect; and in the temporary absence of Wexford (bomb-damaged in a slightly lame side-plot) sidekick Inspector Michael Burden takes on the investigative hunt. Not vintage Rendell, and a slight feeling that she is tiring of her coppers.

Endearing ham Sheridan Haynes (first met in *A Three Pipe Problem*) is summoned by Symons to perform his one-man Sherlock Holmes show to Warren Waymark, rich reclusive and accumulator of Holmesiana in Copenhagen. Haynes is offered a hitherto unknown Holmes novel, written in Conan Doyle's own hand. Deaths, disguises and deceptions follow in an entertaining, elegant, literate, affectionate homage by a writer on top form. A delight.

● *Basking*, by Michael Dibdin (Faber, £10.95). With no one else available, Commissioner Aurelio Zen, disgraced during the Aldo Moro affair, is sent to Perugia to take charge of police inquiries into the kidnapping of a rich indus-

Murky deep waters

CRIME

Marcel Berlins

THE VEILED ONE

By Ruth Rendell

Hutchinson, £10.95

THE KENTISH MANOR MURDERS

By Julian Symonds

Macmillan, £9.95

traiist and paterfamilias. Resentful local police, an uncooperative multi-skeletoned family, and pressures from Zen's own domineering mother and impatient American lover combine splendidly in a convincing tale reeking of authentic Italian atmosphere and politics.

● *The Marshall and the Madwoman*, by Magdalen Nabb (Collins, £9.95). She writes about the Florence the tourist doesn't see — the lives and passions of its ordinary working citizens, the city's criminal underbelly, and the depressed suburbs outside the glamorous centre. The killing of an ex-inmate of the now-closed asylum has a motive in past secrets. Marshal Guarnaccia gloomily, patiently unravels. Comparisons with Simenon are not far-fetched.

● *Pale Kings and Princes*, by Robert B. Parker (Viking, £10.95). The estimably sensitive Boston shamus Spencer investigates death of reporter locking into cocaine-dealing in nearby hick town with more than its fair share of Colombians, tough cops, silent townsfolk and brooding sexual overtones. Spencer's unhappiness contrasts with readers' certain enjoyment at finding Parker in fine form.

● *Protection*, by Bill James (Constable, £9.95). A blow-lamp applied to a gangster's private parts is not appreciated by his colleagues, whose riposte is to kidnap the perpetrator's young son. The police are interested, not least because one of their own might be taking protection money from the troubled papa. Not for the squeamish or for believers in the police as a collection of Dock Green Dixons; but definitely for admirers of realistic and up-to-the-minute dialogue and situations, and gritty, flawed, human coppers.

● *Sideways*, by Charles Willeford (Gollancz, £10.95). Hoke Mosely, Miami homicide cop, has mental breakdown and becomes caretaker of condominium in tacky development; an old man wrongly accused of child molesting finds a friend in ex-con planning supermarket hold-up. The raid becomes a massacre and Mosely returns. Willeford's extraordinary descriptions of place and people and his command of pace and action put him in the Elmore Leonard class.

● *A Lethal Vintage*, by Martin Sylvester (Michael Joseph, £11.95). Witty romp with hedonistic oenologist William Warner, starting with the Chelsea shooting of his sexy wife's interior decorator and probably lover, and taking in docklands corruption and Bavarian nookies on the way to a breathless finale. Pert dialogue, unlagging action and chuckles.

Hybrid spring greens

GARDENING

Ruth Stungo

In the spring growth of gardening books it is the incessant search for a different approach that has given rise to today's race of hybrids, topic books that are neither flesh nor fowl, and oddly unsatisfactory.

● *Take The Gardens of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother* (Viking, £14.95) "a personal tour with the Marchioness of Salisbury". A sure winner you might suppose, combining as it does the element of royalty-watching that must surely have some appeal, perhaps unacknowledged, for us all (speak for yourself, Ed.), a famous and knowledgeable author, and lovely pictures of the four royal gardens — Royal Lodge, Clarence House, the Castle of Mey, and Birkhall. Gardens always reveal something of their owners; and what gardener cannot have been curious at some time to know what lies behind the palace wall? Lady Salisbury has done a great deal of homework and has a felicity of phrase. Yet, to my mind, it doesn't quite work: something to do, perhaps, with a curiously disconcerting lack of a single point of view.

● *The Art of the Garden*, by Ethne Clarke (Michael Joseph, £14.95) is a similar hybrid, not helped by a title which gives little clue to its actual subject matter. It is a history of the parallel development of the kitchen garden and the cooking for which it provided the raw ingredients, from medieval times to the end of the 18th century. A narrower approach, more fully explored, might have

been even better. Does one actually want such diverse information within one cover? Both the garden and the kitchen would be too messy for such a pretty book.

● I would not have expected to enjoy yet another book about town-dwellers creating a country cottage garden: a well-tried formula if ever there was one. Yet *The Making of an English Country Garden* (Chatto & Windus, £10.95) is a total delight, because its author Deborah Kellaway writes so well. It is a deceptively simple, almost matter of fact, account of making a garden round a Norfolk cottage from an unpromising, badly-oriented field. Someone who describes teaching a clematis where to go as having "a finicky fascination rather like doodling", who can encapsulate an impression in a simile, who can actually admit to enjoying tidying up at the end of the year — "like tidying up a house after a riotous party" — is someone I know I should like. Add to this her awareness of time's part in the making of a satisfactory garden and her attention to the rightness of a plant for its intended situation, and you know you are in the hands of a cunning and clever gardener.

More book reviews on page 18

CENTURY HUTCHINSON

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Martindale
Cambridge, £29.50

Take Chaucer, add a little Shakespeare, sprinkle liberally with Handel, cover with a generous helping of Boucher, and top with sprigs of Belloc and Ewart and a frond of Jeffrey Archer. Turn it all into Latin and you have Ovid. What a gift he has been to literature! Name a challenge and he would take it on. Virgil does not tell us what song Orpheus sang to still the shades of Hades, but Ovid does. Virgil does not explain why Orpheus' song, which could charm the animate and inanimate alike, was unable to prevent the Maenads from ripping him apart, but Ovid does (they created such a din that the stones they were hurling, initially charmed by Orpheus into falling short, could no longer hear his song and so began to strike home). In every literary arena, Ovid took on all-comers — parody, wit, rhetoric, sensuality, pathos, lyric, intimacy, epic grandeur. He tried it in politics too (with the Emperor's daughter) but this time he lost. (Hands up anyone who thought Archer was in for his literary skill.)

In a generation, when Mr Baker's exciting national curriculum has killed off all subjects except those of his choice, no one in England at any rate will be equipped to produce such a survey of Ovidian influences from the

Middle Ages to the 20th century as Charles Martindale has edited; and this first-rate collection of essays, of which Martindale's introduction is a model, is an indication of what our artists and poets, cut off from the fount of our traditional eloquence, will be missing.

The 12th-century renaissance, when Western man's eyes began slowly to be reopened to this world's secular as well as religious pressures, heralded the *aetas Ovidiana*: Ovid, the rakish man of the world, perfectly caught the mood. But the Christian Church did not stand idly by. The 14th-century *Ovide Moralisé*, a poem of 70,000 verses, showed what Christian allegory could do to the old reprobate, and the Daedalus and Icarus story, beautifully pursued down the ages by Niall Rudd, became a symbol of Christ's ascension into the heavens, but with a warning: aspire (= fly) at a level appropriate to mankind. Chaucer, as Helen Cooper argues,

resisted this slick moralization. Literature was emphatically not "the handmaid of ethics": as with Ovid, the story in all its multifariousness was the thing.

Ovid's appeal to Donne and the Elizabethans, Laurence Lerner shows, lay in Ovid's ability to reconcile the twin claims of wit and sensuousness: the age, as ours, was fascinated by sex, generation, and death, and no one could play the amusing and pointed master of those ceremonies better than Ovid. Llewellyn on the artists' use of Ovid, Trickett on the Augustans' fascination with Ovid's *Heroides* (an epistolary monologue about women's love), Vance on the 19th-century response — slight, but Walter Pater could still talk in Wordsworthian terms of Ovid's "pathos caught from humbler things" — and Martindale on Ovid and *The Waste Land* indicate the range and importance of this collection. Those who read it will not only go straight back to Ovid (pleasure enough); they will also understand a little more about the well-springs of poets' and artists' creativity in the days when they had the intelligence to take their inspiration from a 2,000-year-old, publicly endorsed tradition of excellence. The price of abandoning that tradition is visible all round us today.



Ovid with his verse made Orpheus and Eurydice sing for us for ever

NEW HARDBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books:

Elephant Memories, by Cynthia Moss (Eim Tree, £15.95). Unsentimental account of 12 years in the life of an elephant family.

Gorbals Boy at Oxford, by Ralph Glasser (Chatto & Windus, £11.95). Vol. 2 of this fine autobiography of the psychologist and economist.

Kent, by Nigel Nicholson (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12.95). Superior coffee-table historical guide-book: pictures by Patrick Sutherland.

Living by the Sword, by Stephen Green (Faber, £14.95). US-Israeli abrasive relations with countries of the Middle East, 1968-87.

Manet, by Pierre Courthion (Thames & Hudson, £12.95). Concise version of the definitive tome of our enigmatic first modern artist.

Orphans of War, by Rosemary Taylor (Collins, £15). Australian teacher's brave work with the abandoned children of Vietnam 1967-75.

Queen Victoria is Very Ill, by Katharine Moore (Allison & Busby, £10.95). A century of memoirs of a clever nonagenarian novelist.

The Abbey Theatre, edited by E.H. Mikhail (Macmillan, £29.50). Interviews and recollections from admirably variegated witnesses.

The Faces of Hemingway, edited by Denis Brian (Grafton, £14.95). Interviews, memories, self-promoting views by those who knew him.

We Don't Play It for Fun, by Don Mosey (Methuen, £10.95). Yorkshire cricket, which is seldom fun to watch either these days, except off the pitch, but confirms the bizarre Yorkshire chip and inferiority complex.

Hidden deep in Benoit Peeters' definitive new collection of Herge's juvenilia is an apocalyptic illustration of Bambi, looking not like Disney's stylized wimpish French poodle, but a frightened black sheep. The wood-cut is just one of an astonishing variety of experiments in style and typography: from Beardsley-like foetus-faces to patriotic frescoes, from Bisto kids to art deco fashion plates. But whereas Disney never developed beyond a masterly visual technique and a fixation with fairy tales, Herge proceeded to write the history of the 20th century in *bande dessinée*: Soviet Russia, colonialism, the Sino-Japanese War, the moon-shot. Out of Grimm, gangster movies and Chicago came Disney. Out of Tyrolean folk art, Catholicism, and Scouting came Tintin.

Was Tintin a Scout? One distinctly propagandist spread con-

Tintin's
toggle

Martin Spence

HERGE
1922-32: Les débuts d'un
illustrateur
By Benoit Peeters
Casterman, £26

trasts an early Yuppie's ignorance of how the necessities of life reach him, and his enjoyment of the pernicious and manufactured entertainment of the screen, with a Scout's self-help and creation of his own entertainment around the camp-fire. But in 1926, when he

was 19, Herge began *The Adventures of Tintin*, the *Patrol Leader of the Mopings* in the monthly *Belgian Boy Scout*. Totor's moon face and snub nose are Tintin's, and every page is stamped *Herge Moving Pictures*. This is cinema on paper. The thrillingly illicit influence is everywhere. But it determines form, not content. Totor, transported to the States, shoots hordes of redskins, rescues his giddy aunt from gangsters, and discovers treasure which he gives to the Scouting movement.

These are the breathless narratives, frenziedly rambling, packed with the absurd gags and crazy chases of early comedies and Westerns — of *Indiana Jones* and *The Temple of Doom*. They do indeed have all the technical virtuosity of Spielberg, who has just secured the film rights to Tintin. But how will Baden Powell meet Hollywood?

THE ARTS

The way America
joined the war

TELEVISION

David Dimbleby's *An Ocean Apart* (BBC1) is turning out to be an absorbing account of Anglo-American relations. Last night's instalment covered the ferocious debate about whether America should become involved in the Second World War.

British Cabinet minutes and the recollection of those close to the Churchill-Roosevelt discussions combined to suggest that Roosevelt frankly hoodwinked the American people at the time of his re-election into thinking he did not wish for any involvement in a war.

More controversial, perhaps, was the implication that Chamberlain appeased Hitler because he knew he could not rely on American support.

The popular rallies of Charles Lindbergh, leading the anti-British cause in the States, were alarming to see only the visit of King George VI and his Queen in 1939 helped to shift popular opinion there.

Still, with the Neutrality Act in force, the Americans had to resort to such hilarious tactics as bringing aircraft up to the Canadian border, and pelting them across with horses into Canada, where Commonwealth pilots could fly them.

David Dimbleby tells his story

well (though there is slightly too much pacing around and gesticulation). It is also refreshing in such a mega-documentary series to find that he does the interviewing of witnesses himself and is allowed to converse with them rather than simply drawing stock statements from them.

This is Europe Against Cancer Week, and *Horizon* (BBC2) produced a programme in collaboration with the EEC which was aimed at demonstrating that cancer may be controlled by dietary habits.

The density of information provided by computers, coloured maps of different cancers in different bits of Europe, was confusing. Add to that the pictorial images of food being consumed in all corners of the continent, and I ended up in some doubt as to what I was meant to do next.

Eat less, for sure. Not too much sun, unless I am a Mediterranean peasant. High fibre, probably, except that in Africa... low fat, perhaps, except that in Greece... ah well, pass the doughnuts.

William Holmes

Stokowski of the East

RPO/Inoue
Festival Hall

CONCERT

On the strength of last night's Mozart and Mahler performances it seems that the Japanese have found, in Michiyoshi Inoue, a conductor of remarkable character.

"Found" is probably a gross slur on the famously diligent Japanese way of training musicians. One imagines that Inoue had a quarter size baton thrust into his infant hand while he was still toddling round the nursery. Now he is conductor of major orchestras in Japan and New Zealand, and ought to have a considerable career in the West as well.

Some of what he did in Mahler's Sixth Symphony I found simultaneously overwhelming and appalling. The extremely slow speed of the first two movements, the passionate but over-indulgent rubatos, the blasted brass lines, the expansion of minor crescendos into major earthquakes. All this seemed sincerely felt, but liable to

coarsen the emotional impact. But it is rare to encounter a conductor who has so strikingly individual a vision along with the technique to realize it precisely. There was a touch of Stokowski about both his penchant for dynamic extremes and his extraordinary delineation of complex textures.

He pulled the music around boldly yet always carried the players with him.

Before this beast came beauty, in profusion. For Mozart's Piano Concerto in C, K467, Jon Kimura Parker revealed a delicate, subtle side to his pianism that he has hitherto kept modestly hidden. Complementing his sparkling fingerwork, Inoue kept the orchestral sound airy and immaculately balanced, as thus demonstrated a very different side to his musicianship.

Richard Morrison

LONDON
DEBUTS

Of two new ensembles appearing on the same night, the London Musica at St John's, Smith Square, is aiming at new commissions as well as repertory music for up to 15 strings and harpsichord. Formed and conducted by Mark Stephenson, a Philharmonia Orchestra cellist, they were joined by flautist Karen Jones for a spirited B minor Suite (No.2) by Bach.

Musical assurance was evident in the first London performance of Richard Rodney Bennett's *Ophelia*, a 1987 setting of Rimbaud's mood-portrait in a collage of timbre and texture. A harp stitched Michael Chance's plaintive countertenor to the nine accompanying strings, while the oily, serpentine tones of the oboe martenot (Cynthia Miller) served mostly to gild the Ophelian lily.

The group Tragicomedie at Wigmore Hall was formed and directed by the luteist Stephen Stubbs for music from Renaissance to Baroque. Their imaginative programme called "The Amorous Dialogue: Love, Flowers and Death" explored in particular the dialogue-form between instruments and between voices. From what I heard of Monteverdi, Stefano Landi and especially Niccolò Fontana's *L'illa e Lido*, featuring John Potter and David Cordier, in a tenor-countertenor duo, the ensemble's elegant style becomes its scholarship.

Noriko Ogawa made it easy to understand why she aroused such enthusiasm at last year's Leeds International Piano Competition, in spite of being placed third. Her Wigmore Hall programme combined breathtaking command of the keyboard and a willingness to take risks, as well as the ability to think herself into romantic Schumann as convincingly as chiselled Prokofiev.

The former's *Fantasia*, Op.17, was played with fanciful imagination on a scale less like a musical water-colour than a Kurosawa film epic.

Breadth of musicality was never in doubt as Tansy Little encompassed a variety of style in her Purcell Room programme. Already much travelled for her youth, the violinist was notably responsive to the quiet rapture and poetic fancy of Debussy's Sonata No.2.

In the first performance of the short *Arioso* by James Rolfe, a long, expressive violin line was accompanied by folk-like piano harmonies from Piers Lane.

Noel Goodwin

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THE ARTS

FILMS

Tampopo (18)
Metro,
Screen on the Hill

Under Satan's Sun (15)
Cannon Première,
Swiss Centre

Making Mr Right (15)
Chelsea Cinema

Dudes (15)
Cannon Tottenham
Court Road

Juzo Itami's *Tampopo* is the second in his series of comic analyses of the Japanese character (the first was *The Funeral*, the third *A Taxing Woman*). Here he approaches his fellow countrymen by way of their stomachs. He first intended simply a random series of anecdotes on the theme of food, but decided to give it a firmer structure with a running story that parodies the classic Western plot of a stranger who rides into town, brings law and order, and rides off into the desert.

Here a truck driver and his mate chance upon a run-down noodle restaurant on the outskirts of Tokyo, run by a harassed widow. Taken with the lady but repelled by her noodles, the driver undertakes her culinary education. With assistance from various friends and chance acquaintances, Tampopo's place is transformed into the best noodle bar in town.

The story is an excuse for a ranging essay on the role of food in man's life and emotions, from cradle to grave. Itami shows us people cooking food or extolling it even in their death agonies; and ends the film with shots of a newborn gourmet savouring the milk of his mother's breasts.

Eating and sex, says Itami, are inextricably connected. A recurrent character in the film is a white-clad young gangster who devises extremely erotic games involving egg yolks, oysters and the careful application of seasoning to his mistress's nipples.

Itami's fertile imagination peoples a world of gourmandizing grotesques: a demonic old lady who torments shopkeepers by flying round their supermarkets sticking sharp inquisitive fingers



Food for the mind, food for the body: Gérard Depardieu and Sandrine Bonnaire in *Under Satan's Sun*, and a mixture of gastronomy and sexuality from Juzo Itami's *Tampopo*



Giant of Indian cinema

Given the desperately limited opportunities for screening cinema of quality in India, it is quite likely that the films of Shyam Benegal have been shown as much in the West as in his own country.

This is a particularly cruel fate for a man who is reproached by radical Indian critics precisely for his supposed willingness to relax artistic standards in order to attract a larger domestic audience.

The trouble for any good Indian director is that the standards of popular taste in films are so low that any search for audiences from the small but excellent "parallel" or "arts" cinema is bound to involve massive artistic compromises. This is one reason for the current mood of depression, if not despair, in the Indian parallel cinema.

Benegal himself has not seemed too much affected by this mood. He has gone on exploring an ever wider range of subjects, in the process breaking away from the cinema of social criticism which, while necessary, has at its worst cast a pretty gloomy pall.

Benegal's first film, *The Seedling (Ankur)*, is, however, one of the best examples of the genre: its subject is an Untouchable girl who becomes the mistress of a landowner's westernized son. This is still in many ways his finest film.

The Seedling, and Benegal's work in general, is also notable for its sharp comic perceptions. *Market Place (Mandi)*, NFI Sunday May 22) is one of the funniest films to come out of India to date. It is set in a brothel which is permanently on the verge of suppression by the forces of order.

Another Benegal film of note, *Possessed (Junoon)*, NFI Friday May 13) concerns the Matni. Without being in any way polemical, it makes a most interesting contrast with British works on the subject.

For those interested in the works of Benegal's teacher, Satyajit Ray, an essential part of the NFI season is Benegal's profile of Ray on Tuesday May 24. Though sometimes too reverential, it is probably the most comprehensive filmed portrayal of a great director's technique on record.

Anatol Lieven
Style and Passion: The films of Shyam Benegal at the NFI, May 1-30, lecture by Benegal on Friday May 27.

David Robinson

Tantalizing, agonizing

into peaches, cheese and bricioles; a gang of epicurean vagrants who scavenge the dustbins of the finest restaurants, in order to discuss the finer points of culinary art; an incorrigible, rich old glutton who is only saved from choking himself to death by the timely insertion of a vacuum cleaner down his gullet.

Even the bit parts in this gastronomic circus are played by star actors, who clearly enjoy taking part in an Itami comedy, and perform with infectious relish. Masaki Tamura's colour photography makes the constant close-up detail of the food tantalizingly mouth-watering. *Tampopo* should on no account be seen on an empty stomach.

It is a curiosity and a treat and compelling, despite the discursive style; even though for Western tastes Itami's films are consistently over-long, this one would certainly have been better at 90 minutes rather than two hours.

This year is the centenary of the birth of the Catholic writer

Georges Bernanos. Although Bernanos's last work, *Dialogues des Carmélites*, was intended as a film scenario, Robert Bresson (*Journal d'un curé de campagne*, *Mouchette*) was for decades the only film maker to attempt his austere dramas about the struggle of good and evil for the soul of man.

Maurice Pialat, however, though an avowed agnostic, has now filmed Bernanos's celebrated first novel, *Under Satan's Sun* (1926), and won the Grand Prix at last year's Cannes Film Festival with it.

Bresson's frail little priest of Ambricourt was tormented by the hostility of his fellow men. Pialat's priest of Lumbres is agonized by his intellectual and spiritual shortcomings, the complexities of theology and the looming reality of Satan. Gérard Depardieu, wholly excellent in this very untypical role, is earnest, lumbering, a simple man whose fanatical

dedication far outruns his intellectual grasp.

He is torn by piety and pride. He flagellates himself with chains until he is faint; and meekly despises his superior (played by Pialat himself) for his dilettantism. He is convinced he has come face to face with Satan in the shape of a horse-trader who plants a kiss on his lips. In a vision he recognizes the guilt of a local baggage (Sandrine Bonnaire) who has murdered her aristocratic seducer; in consequence she kills herself, adding to the confusions of the priest's conscience.

The fervour of his own primitive superstitions convinces the locals that he is a saint; and their faith and his own conviction drives him on to perform what seems to be a miracle. Loved, revered, and wracked in health and mind, he dies in the confessional.

The film is finely acted by Depardieu, Pialat and Bonnaire, and Willy Kurant's photography evokes the life of the bleak remote

land. (Pialat makes no attempt to set the story in the early-century period specified in the book.) Static and talky for long stretches, however, it may at times prove somewhat demanding for audiences without a special curiosity about theological debates of the Catholic faith.

Two American women directors who first made their names in independent feature production have come up with disappointing commercial films. Making *Mr Right*, Susan Seidelmann's first film since the success of *Desperately Seeking Susan*, is a would-be romantic-philosophical science fiction comedy, which is doomed by a crude and hopelessly implausible script by Floyd Byars and Laurie Frank.

Implausibly it tells how a high-powered PR lady (Ann Magnuson), called significantly Frankie Stone (cf. Frankenstein), is hired to promote an android developed for the hazards of space

land. (Pialat makes no attempt to set the story in the early-century period specified in the book.) Static and talky for long stretches, however, it may at times prove somewhat demanding for audiences without a special curiosity about theological debates of the Catholic faith.

developed for the hazards of space exploration. Implausibly she takes upon herself to teach the thing about sex and love. Anyone can guess the implausible rest. The film boasts only one idea: that the creature comes to have more human feeling than his creator. In films like *Suburbia* and *The Boys Next Door*, Penelope Spheeris appealed to teenage audiences with violent action, loud music, and underlying sentimentality about misunderstood kids. *Dudes*, scripted by John Randall Johnson, aims to be zany fantasy, but ends up a mess. With the familiar theme of Easterners discovering themselves in the Wild West, it has three punk rockers heading for California, meeting a homicidal gang in the desert and getting involved in a revenge affair. They also encounter phantom cowboys, an Elvis impersonator and a pretty stupid dialogue, and are generally not very endearing.

David Robinson

A change of direction to be proud of

Much Ado About Nothing
Birmingham Repertory

This exquisite production opens Renaissance Theatre's season of Shakespeare plays directed by actors — by actors, moreover, making their directorial debut. Such a laudably original idea might have resulted in a resolve by the directors here Judi Dench, to play safe. Certainly she gives up no

gimmicks, but if this is playing safe, then for me it is safety first. What the production provides is a clear telling of the story, piloting its curving course through the mercurial and romantic love into the tragedy of Hero's rejection and out again.

The key to the evening's success is the playing of Beatrice by Samantha Bond. Her scenes are never without their mordant edge of sadness which her voice conveys in a delicate musical treasure.

When she rejects Don Pedro's

casually spoken offer of marriage she does so politely, turning her face aside. Again, the scene in the pleached arbour where she overhears the plot is frequently played for outright comedy, with large gestures of amazement; Samantha Bond, crouched behind a potted tree, scarcely moves, but a range of emotions — steals — silently and revealingly across her face.

The play has been transposed to the early 19th century, which it fits neatly, to suggest that the events take place during some peaceful

interlude of Napoleon's Italian campaign. The women wear high-waisted muslin dresses, the men elegant military uniforms.

Dench's inexperience reveals itself in some awkward entrances through the main door, and in superimposing crowd scenes in an unnatural way because swirling the players on and off would be too cumbersome. However, she is nobly served by her cast. Tam Hoskyns is a Hero fleshing with happy love and then catching the heart with her protests of im-

cence. Richard Easton's dapper Leonato finds charming comedy in an honest man unused to the arts of guile. Kenneth Branagh's observant Benedick speaking his words as if truly new-minted, brings to the tragic scenes the clear-eyed passion that will turn him from onlooker to combatant.

It is a production of which an actress turned director has every reason to be proud.

Jeremy Kingston

THEATRE

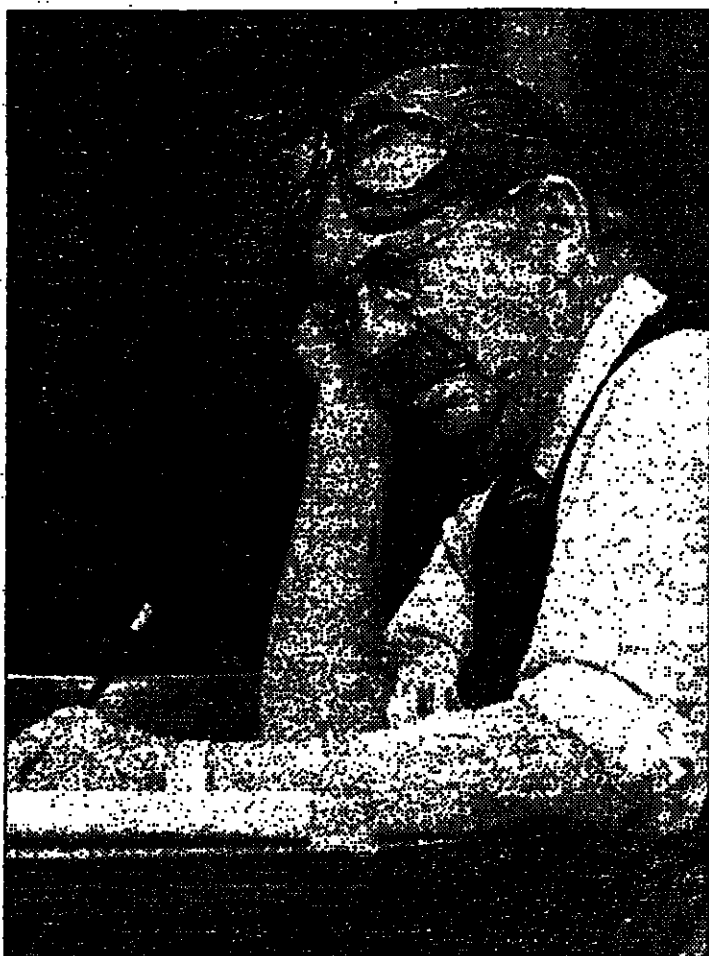
Satire from the suburbs

One Way Pendulum
Old Vic

N. F. Simpson's plays arrived in the late 1950s, and define a half way mark in the English comic revolution — between the defeated "silly me" *Punch* tradition, and the aggressive assertion of the Sixties satirists and Monty Python. Simpson's characters are still blinkered little suburbanites, but instead of fighting losing battles with their lawn-mowers or enduring humiliation from the Gas Board, they answer the door to people asking them to form a Government, or — as is the case of this immensely popular 1959 piece — they set up the Old Bailey in their living room.

Simpson is often claimed as a successor to Lewis Carroll; but that can have been of no help to him in the theatre. Throughout his regrettably small output, he has always had to invent what a play should be as well as writing one. And what was evident, even back in the 1950s, was that his work consisted of flashes of inspired lunacy stitched together with passages of strained nonsense writing.

One Way Pendulum is largely about domestic habit: the idea being that anything feels normal as long as you do it often enough. So, the Groomkirk family give house-room to the wheelchair-bound Aunt Mildred, who is there simply because she got on the wrong train; a daily help comes in to devour the surplus food; and young Kirby pursues the Hallelujah Chorus to a choir of weighing machines. These are all marvelous ideas. The trouble is that they often refuse to grow; and the writing marks time with tedious decoration until the next descent of the comic Muse.



Between *Punch* and Python: Peter Bayliss as Arthur Groomkirk

I cannot claim to recall William Gaskill's original Royal Court production in any great detail; but I do remember it as an event of well-focused energy and timing that lifted the play into a zone of comic delirium. Jonathan Miller's revival is cast up to the nines (including one member of the 1959 company, Graham Crowden), and offers some lovely performances and a few glorious ascents to the higher lunacy. But for much of the time, it suggests the kind of do-it-yourself aircraft that Mr Groomkirk might have assembled in his back-yard; an eye-catching object with all kinds of inventive accessories, but not capable of taking off.

For the first time in my experience of the Vic, the acoustics are bad — perhaps affected by Richard Hudson's set which erects a lofty Magritte cloudscape over the

living room, for the ducks on the wall to fly on into the blue. The weighing machines, along with much of the dialogue, reach the ears as if through cotton wool; and this, in turn, exposes the physically spiritless playing. Ann Way's Mrs Gantry sits down to devour her housework, but after pouring out cereal like soap flakes, she simply eats, instead of playing mastication as a physical task. Kirby (Andrew St Clair) is even denied his moment of glory in conducting the weighing machines. Brenda Bruce, whose performance is a continuous dusting dance, is marvellous; so is John Savident in building up the prosecuting counsel's statistical tirade.

Enjoy these and other pleasures, but be prepared for stretches of inertia.

Irving Wardle

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THEATRE
LONDON

★ **ALPHA BETA:** George Costigan and Gillian Brown as the unforgotten married couple sharing and shedding each other in Ted Whitehead's drama. *Man in the Moon*, 392 King's Road SW6 (01-831 2878). Tube: Sloane Square, then bus down the Kings Road. Opens 7.30pm, then Tues-Sat 7.30-9.30pm, 24.

★ **ANYTHING FOR A QUIET LIFE:** Theatre de Complicite up to their latest ingenious antics, this time focussing on the comic entwines of a life in a Half Moon Theatre, 213 Mile End Road E1 (01-790 4000). Tube: Stepney Green. Mon-Sat 8-9.30pm, £3.50-£5.50.

★ **BACK WITH A VENGEANCE:** Dame Edna Everage back again joshing the possums. *Strand Theatre*, Aldwych, WC2 (01-836 2650). Tube: Charing Cross. Mon-Fri 7.30-10.30pm, Sat 8-11pm, Mat Sat 2.30-5.30pm, £5.50-£17.50. Ends July 9.

★ **THE COMMON PURSUIT:** Simon Gray plays the fortunes of undergarment friends, splendidly led by Ray Mawley, John Sessions, Stephen Fry, John Gordon Sinclair. *Phoenix Theatre*, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-836 2234). Tube: Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Thurs 8-10.15pm, Fri and Sat 8.45-11pm, Mat Fri and Sat 8.15pm, £5-£14.50.

★ **EASY VIRTUE:** Attractive revival of Noel Coward (1935) with John Sessions and Fay Durrant as his equally alcoholic companion. A first American film from the Swiss-French director Robert Schöndorfer (99 min). *Canon Tottenham Court Road* (01-836 6148). Progs 1.30, 3.35, 6.00, 8.25.

★ **EMERALD CITY:** Australian hit comedy by David Williamson giving the lowdown on down under. *Lynce Theatre*, Shaftesbury Avenue W1 (01-437 3688). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Previews from tonight, Mon-Fri 8.15-10.15pm, Sat 8.30-10.45pm, Mat Thurs 3-5.15pm, Sat 5-7.15pm, then times as before, £4-£11.50.

★ **MARRIED LOVE:** New Peter Luke play starring Susan Hampshire as Marie Slopes, mother of birth control. Directed by John Goodson. *Wyndham's Theatre*, Charing Cross Road WC2 911-936 (2028). Tube: Leicester Square. Previews from tonight, Mon-Fri 8.15-10.15pm, Sat 8.30-10.45pm, Mat Wed 3-5.15pm, Sat 5-7.15pm, then times as before, £5.90-£10.

★ **MOON ON A RAINBOW SHAWL:** Errol John's poignant 50s play: tensions in rural Trinidad. *Almeida Theatre*, Almeida Street N1 (01-359 4404). Tube: Highbury Islington. Opens tonight, 7pm, then Mon-Sat 8pm, Mat Sat 2.30pm, £5.50-£7.50.

★ **THE TEMPEST:** Michael Bryant plays Prospero in Peter Hall's production, first in a trilogy of late Shakespeare. *National Theatre (Cottesloe)*, South Bank SE1 (01-828 2232). Tube: Waterloo. Previews tonight, 7.30-9.45pm. Opens May 19, 7.30-10.15pm, then 10.15pm, £7.50.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 22

MINDON

(a) An extremely hypothetical particle of matter supposed to carry mental or telepathic messages, coined in 1972 by poor old Arthur Koestler for *mind + on*.

MOULIES

(b) French slang for the buttocks, cheeks, bum, or behind.

CONGERIES

(a) A disordered heap or aggregation, either of concrete things or of abstract concepts, etc., from the Latin *congruere* to collect or bring together.

TALON

(b) Cards left over after the deal in such games as cribbage or gin rummy, also the stock, from the Latin *talus* the suite, pastern, or heel.

LONG RUNNERS: ★ *Beyond Reasonable Doubt:* Queens Theatre (01-734 1186). ★ *The Business of Murder:* Mayfair Theatre (01-629 3636). ★ *Cats:* New London Theatre (01-405 0072, cc 01-404 4078). ★ *Chess:* Prince Edward Theatre (01-734 8851). ★ *Follies:* Shaftesbury Theatre (01-379 5399). ★ *42nd Street:* Drury Lane Theatre (01-836 5108/5109). ★ *Les Liaisons Dangereuses:* Ambassadors Theatre (01-836 6111, cc 01-836 1171). ★ *Life and Mr. Galt:* Adelphi Theatre (01-240 7913/4). ★ *Les Misérables:* Palace Theatre (01-434 0909). ★ *The Mousetrap:* St Martin's Theatre (01-836 1443). ★ *Kiss Me Kate:* Savoy Theatre (01-836 8888). ★ *Les Liaisons Dangereuses:* Ambassadors Theatre (01-836 6111, cc 01-836 1171). ★ *Life and Mr. Galt:* Adelphi Theatre (01-240 7913/4). ★ *Les Misérables:* Palace Theatre (01-434 0909). ★ *The Mousetrap:* St Martin's Theatre (01-836 1443). ★ *Kiss Me Kate:* Savoy Theatre (01-836 8888). ★ *Les Liaisons Dangereuses:* Ambassadors Theatre (01-836 6111, cc 01-836 1171). 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Japan is urged to embrace imports

By Nicholas Wood and Andrew McEwen

Mrs Margaret Thatcher last night set British industry the target of doubling its exports to Japan over the next three years as she strongly urged the Far Eastern economic giant to lower its remaining barriers to free trade.

At a Downing Street dinner in honour of Mr Noboru Takeshita, the visiting Japanese Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher said: "We recognize and welcome the fact that Japan is now importing more."

"But we would like to see it taken further still, to the point where it is as natural for your people to buy the best, whether it is made at home or imported from abroad, as it is for ours."

"And so we should increase our trade. British exports to Japan have grown 50 per cent in the last two years. I should like to set the objective of doubling them in the next three."

The Prime Minister was speaking after holding private talks with Mr Takeshita at which she sought to clear up the "unfinished business" of the tax on imported Scotch whisky and additional duties on the Tokyo stock exchange for British securities firms.

She reminded Mr Takeshita that since Elizabethan times the British people had been

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Geoffrey Smith 6
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accustomed to buying products from every corner of the world. They expected them to be allowed into the country without hindrance, and they judged them not on place of origin but on interest, merit and value for money.

"They find it hard to understand why that cannot be the case of the world over," she said.

Mrs Thatcher welcomed Japanese investment in Britain, which had doubled over the last two years, and said Japanese management and a British work force was an unbeatable combination.

She said that her meeting with Mr Takeshita was a new chance for the two countries to establish an excellent working relationship. "We need to act together in the Economic Summit to try to ensure continued economic growth and therefore the expansion of trade," she said.

Mrs Thatcher's decision to raise in force the British concerns about Japanese taxes on whisky and access for British firms to operate on the Tokyo stock exchange was bound to be unwelcome to Mr Takeshita.

He had wanted to keep the focus on mainstream international affairs.

In a speech at the Mansion House just before their talks, he avoided any direct reference to the two issues and concentrated on Japan's desire for a stronger partnership with Europe and the United States in seeking solutions to regional conflicts.

Princess comforts IRA shooting victim



Princess Margaret visiting Senior Aircraftman Richard Garth, who survived when the car he was sitting in was raked with gunfire, in hospital at Wegberg.

British bases put on maximum security alert

Continued from page 1

Officials believe that the IRA attacks on British service men have been carried out with "indispensable" West German terrorist assistance, and that the IRA, using a network of Euro-terrorists built up over some 10 years, has decided to attack British military targets in Europe as a "soft option".

Forensic experts were yesterday trying to discover if the Bielefeld bomb had the same "signature" as that used in Nieuw Bergen. But military sources thought it unlikely that the same IRA team or individual had planned the Nieuw Bergen bomb, driven 30 miles south to attack the airman at Roermond, and then driven 120 miles to Bielefeld.

"We are dealing here with simultaneous attacks by different teams, which suggests a

sophisticated and very expensive operation," one source said.

Herr Friedrich Zimmermann, the West German Interior Minister, said recently that West German police had arrested 20 terrorists over the past five years. But the Red Army Faction, which emerged from the ashes of the notorious Baader Meinhof gang about 10 years ago, has survived.

New "revolutionary cells" have been created and strong links have been formed with the IRA, the Italian Red Brigades and the French terrorist group Action Directe. Herr Zimmermann said there had been no "let up" in the European terrorists' war on society, and there must be no let up in society's response.

"Europe might not seem all that soft when you consider that police on the continent

are armed and any chase is likely to end in a shoot-out" one source said.

"On the other hand, it is much easier to get away, and there is a network of terrorist support," said one German source. "In The Netherlands or Germany you just slip across a border on good fast roads. In the UK you are trapped on an island."

The decision to order the highest security category, taken jointly by senior Army and RAF commanders in Germany, was made because of concern that the warnings in the last few days were not being taken seriously enough.

Sources said that everyone would be expected to spend at least three or four minutes examining their cars every time before they drove them. "They must check underneath from end to end and from side to side," said one senior Army

officer. "We now know what we're looking for, so we have to be absolutely on our guard."

The device found under the car of a captain in the car park at Rippon Barracks in Bielefeld on Tuesday was the size of a shoebox. The bomb was attached to the car by a magnet.

The discovery of the bomb has given the security forces in Germany the first positive lead on the sort of device they now have to look for.

The Army captain had looked underneath his car but the small bomb at the front had escaped his notice. He had originally parked his car in a side street near the officers' mess. When he drove to the barracks he told the guard at the gate that he had looked under his car and he was allowed in.

A memorial service was

held at a Catholic church in Nieuw Bergen for the airman who died. People in the town expressed deep respect for the dead at the memorial service but the respect was tinged with fear that Nieuw Bergen, Roermond and Bielefeld form a pattern, with more attacks to come.

There was high security for Princess Margaret's visit to RAF Bruggen, another of the RAF bases on the Dutch-German border, and for her subsequent visit—a departure from her previous air visits scheduled — to see Senior Aircraftman Garth and Lewis, who survived the Roermond shooting and are now in hospital at RAF Wegberg.

Military police Land-Rovers with mounted sub-machineguns guarded the gates of both bases. All cars entering and leaving were thoroughly checked under the new security procedures.

Commons sketch

Sir Geoffrey gets his titles right

The *New Statesman* recently staged a weekend comedy session for unlikely book titles. One of the winners was *Playboy Diplomats: The Life of Sir Geoffrey Howe*. This seems a little harsh. While Sir Geoffrey is rarely seen diving into New York night-clubs on the arms of Princess Stephanie of Monaco, he has a pleasant, bumbling manner which might well find him hobnobbing on occasion with some of the more risqué European Agricultural Ministers.

But some think that his liaisons with dandy Europeans has already gone far enough. Mr Ian Gow (*A Wild and Crazy Guy: The Middle Years of Ian Gow*) was up to no good. "There are many of us who view with dismay the replacement of the British passport with the common EEC passport," he boomed, adding, "The day of the nation state is not yet over."

Sir Geoffrey looked a little surprised. If his wrist-watch was correct, his expression seemed to imply, the day of the nation state had only a few more minutes to go. But he tends to avoid the cut-and-thrust of politics, preferring the matter-and-speech approach, so he made every effort to bore his way out of Mr Gow's quaint old English cul-de-sac.

"There is a wide range of feeling about the pattern which might be followed in the...," he began, and already the most highly motivated of whirling dervishes would have found himself dreaming of Horlicks and a spot of shut-eye. "...development of the EEC", he continued. "The original agreement that there should be a common-format passport was made as long ago as 1973 by the then Prime Minister."

"The then Prime Minister?" To whom could he be referring? Even the most experienced of political observers find their memories clogging up when forced to recall the appointments of such an age group. Wasn't Mr Eric Morecambe Prime Minister for a short time in the mid-Seventies? Or perhaps Miss Nockle Goudon? It took the razor-sharp historical prowess of Mr Jonathan Aitken (*My Mission to Ex-plain: The Autobiography of Jonathan Aitken*) to come up with the correct answer. "It's been a long time since

we've had a British Tory Foreign Secretary sheltering behind the coat-tails of Sir Harold Wilson," he exclaimed. Ah yes! Harold Wilson (*The Governance of Britain*). Funny little fellow. Smoked a pipe. Long forgotten. Once met Cilla Black. Alas, Sir Geoffrey grew huffy at the analogy. "There's no question of my sheltering behind anyone's coat-tails, least of all Sir Harold Wilson's", he began.

In his next few breaths, the full measure of Sir Geoffrey's annoyance could be gauged. Having said, "least of all Sir Harold Wilson's", he corrected himself. "Lord Wilson", he said. And then "so sorry" — Lord Wilson of Rievaulx? (This he pronounced with a contempt more usually reserved for used tissues found buried in forgotten pockets). And finally: "The Right Honourable and Noble Lord Wilson of Rievaulx". It is indicative of the usefulness of Sir Geoffrey's reticence that simply by groping his way through the rich and varied absurdities of someone's title he can reduce a reputation to nothing.

Foreign Office Questions plodded on. Sir Bernard Braine (*A Giggie or Two with Sir Bernard: Light-hearted Recollections of a Life in Politics*) thundered about the fate of the former Imperial Family of Ethiopia, his fulminations prompting his colleague Mr Neil Hamilton (*The Quest for Truth: An Appreciation of the BBC in the Eighties*) to a speedy impersonation.

The mere mention of the

Sharpeville Six guarantees

the sight of Tory Ogres

leaping up and down in their

seats, baring their teeth in

panoramic style. Mr John

Carfisle (*Biko My Brother*)

vied for attention with Mr

Eric Forth (*My Life in*

Reggae), but the Speaker

called Mr Forth.

Mr Forth wished to know

whether Sir Chalker had

congratulated the South Afri-

cans. Government on the

independence of its judiciary.

For Mr Forth, this was mild

indeed. In no time at all, he

will be co-authoring *Bonnie*

Tidings from the Land of

Porridge: The Labour Left in

Scotland with Mr Ron

Brown.

Craig Brown

Call for code on no-strike deals

By Roland Rudd

Trade unions will be allowed to give up the strike weapon in favour of compulsory binding arbitration but will be prohibited from signing deals which restrict wage limits, the leader of Britain's third largest trade union predicted yesterday.

Mr John Edmonds, general-secretary of the General Municipal Boilermakers and Allied Trade Union, yesterday said the only solution to end the inter-union dispute on single-union no-strike deals was not to ban such agreements but to draw up a code of practice which prevented unions selling workers' rights

for recognition.

In a wide-ranging interview with *The Times*, Mr Edmonds gave details of how the TUC special review body, which is expected to publish its report later this month, is aiming to minimize inter-union conflict in the wake of a damaging dispute over the loss of the Ford components factory in Dundee.

"It is legitimate to negotiate the strike weapon away in favour of arbitration if industrial action only damages the workforce," he said.

"There are people working in the contract business or in the caring business who can

not afford to go on strike. Arbitration can sometimes be a better option than striking."

Mr Edmonds, who has publicly criticized the electronics for signing no-strike deals, said he objected to the type of agreement which undermined workers' rights to a fair wage or to be represented on the shop floor.

But he thought it was impractical to outlaw no-strike deals and said that such a policy by the TUC would mean abolishing scores of agreements in the public sector which restrict the union's right to strike.

Mr Edmonds predicted that

the review body would draw up a new code of practice which would prohibit unions from signing deals which went "beyond the pale". Unions would not be allowed to restrict wage limits or agree not to organize the workforce on the shop floor.

It is now clear that with the centrist support of the GMB, the review body will not outlaw no-strike deals.

The electronics' union is unlikely to accept the restrictions on the deals it signs envisaged by Mr Edmonds. But the GMB believes the electronics will have no other choice.

Civil Service union rejects Militant

By Roland Rudd

The Militant Tendency has lost control of Britain's largest Civil Service union, the Civil and Public Services Association, to the National Moderate Group, it was disclosed yesterday.

Returns from more than 200 branches in the current executive elections show that the Militant-dominated broad Left, which last year took control of the union after capturing 20 of the 28 executive seats, has suffered a severe blow, losing overall control. Although voting does not officially end until tomorrow, early returns give the

moderate group an insurmountable lead.

Last night Mr John Ellis, the general secretary, said he was delighted with the news and revealed that he is planning to introduce sweeping changes in the election rules to comply with the law requiring secret postal ballots.

The association's conference, which meets next week, is still dominated by the broad Left and can be expected to vigorously oppose any constitutional changes which would put it at a disadvantage.

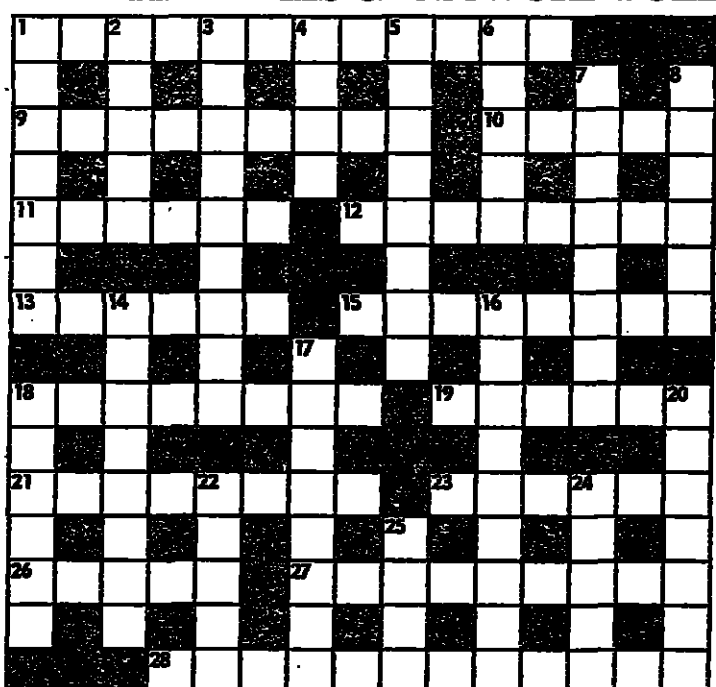
Mr Ellis said he would go over the heads of the con-

ference and ballot the 145,000 members directly.

The move will be fiercely resisted by Militant.

News of the results came after an acrimonious press conference attended by Mr Ellis and his deputy, Mr John Macrae. A Militant supporter, Mr Macrae admitted he had written to Mr Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, without the support of the executive, asking for a special meeting of the TUC general council to call a one-day national strike in support of the seamen.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,661



- ACROSS**
- Progress with ease? Not so well on flat area (5, 7).
 - Discount admission (9).
 - In Tokyo, took place of some Japanese (5).
 - Good times? Dangerous conclusion (6).
 - Studied exact tune again (8).
 - Loosens trousers (6).
 - Ancient Roman in power plant (8).
 - Sickness produced by turbulence (8).
 - Female quartet doing a turn in capital (6).
 - Use similar wood for small container (8).
 - NCO takes up for oral in a body (6).
 - Second Avenue, unlike Broadway? (5).
 - How laser was assembled in the first place (9).
 - Put down actor for musical production (6-6).
- DOWN**
- Worth little as cash crop? (7).
 - A sailor goes aloft to get the range (5).
 - Recent special delivery for magazine (3, 6).
 - Cockney's to visit frequently? It's relative (4).
 - Make up stories on treasure — an old subject (8).
 - Defenceless churchman upset, about king (5).
 - Oil and water can't be what you're looking for (8).
 - State capital Lincoln first used as port (6).
 - Frenchman collared by the police? (8).
 - Perhaps leader ordered a riot I led (9).
 - Moor, for example, in unusual production as brave chieftain (8).
 - Fabric making many a screen (6).
 - One testing copper coin, for example, and sovereign? (7).
 - Draw after putting learner in to be keeper (5).
 - Girl or man with a novel history (5).
 - Suggestion from some of the players (4).

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

MINDON

a. A mental particle

b. A type of china

c. A Tropicallia tyrannicide

MOULLES

a. Shell fish

b. The bun

c. French galoshes

CONGERIES

a. A heap

b. Drinking glasses

c. Seaside piles

TALON

a. A negative particle

b. Left-over cards

c. Ceremonial gloves

Answers page 20, column 1

Solution to Puzzle No 17,660

STURGEON BOTTOM
A P U N S R R I
N A S A L E M A N I A T
D E C R M N P U
W A T C H W O R D G H E N T
L U I N A S S A T T E S T
H N R C P A T T E S T
E G G C U P C O N T R I C
F O R Y A R E I N S T A T E
T O N I M H M
H O U R G L A S S A L I V E
M I D D L E S N A P S H O T

WEATHER

Most central and southern parts of England and Wales will have a dry day with some sunshine. Northern England, Northern Ireland and southern and eastern Scotland will be more cloudy with showers. There should still be some sunshine in these parts but further north and west it will be cloudy with some light rain. Temperatures will be higher than yesterday's in most areas. Outlook: dry with some sunshine.

ABROAD

Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Madrid 14	10	10	Madrid 14	10	10
London 12	10	10	London 12	10	10
Paris 12	10	10	Paris 12	10	10
Rome 12	10	10	Rome 12	10	10
Amsterdam 12	10	10	Amsterdam 12	10	10
Brussels 12	10	10	Brussels 12	10	10
Frankfurt 12	10	10	Frankfurt 12	10	10
Geneva 12	10	10	Geneva 12	10	10
Lyon 12	10	10	Lyon 12	10	10
Munich 12	10	10	Munich 12	10	10
Nuremberg 12	10	10	Nuremberg 12	10	10
Stuttgart 12	10	10	Stuttgart 12	10	10
Vienna 12	10	10	Vienna 12	10	10
Zurich 12	10	10	Zurich 12	10	10

AROUND BRITAIN

Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London 12	10	10	London 12	10	10
Cardiff 12	10	10	Cardiff 12	10	10
Edinburgh 12	10	10	Edinburgh 12	10	10
Glasgow 12	10	10	Glasgow 12	10	10
Manchester 12	10	10	Manchester 12	10	10
Newcastle 12	10	10	Newcastle 12	10	10
Nottingham 12	10	10	Nottingham 12	10	10
Sheffield 12	10	10	Sheffield 12	10	10
Sunderland 12	10	10	Sunderland 12	10	10
Swansea 12	10	10	Swansea 12	10	10
Torquay 12	10	10	Torquay 12	10	10
Wrexham 12	10	10	Wrexham 12	10	10

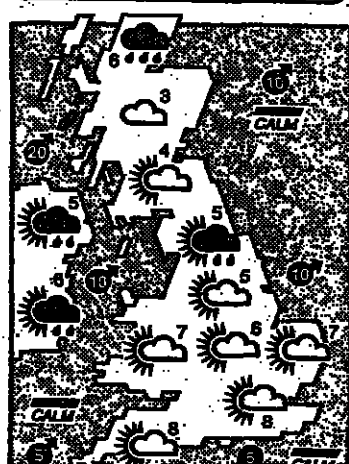
HIGH TIDES

Time	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Time	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London 12	10	10	10	London 12	10	10	10
Cardiff 12	10	10	10	Cardiff 12	10	10	10
Edinburgh 12	10	10	10	Edinburgh 12	10	10	10
Glasgow 12	10	10	10	Glasgow 12	10	10	10
Manchester 12	10	10	10	Manchester 12	10	10	10
Newcastle 12	10	10	10	Newcastle 12	10	10	10
Nottingham 12	10	10	10	Nottingham 12	10	10	10
Sheffield 12	10	10	10	Sheffield 12	10	10	10
Sunderland 12	10	10	10	Sunderland 12	10	10	10
Swansea 12	10	10	10	Swansea 12	10	10	10
Torquay 12	10	10	10	Torquay 12	10	10	10
Wrexham 12	10	10	10	Wrexham 12	10	10	10

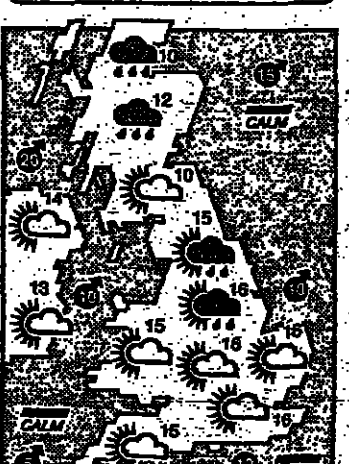
THE POUND

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
London 12	10	10	London 12	10	10
Cardiff 12	10	10	Cardiff 12	10	10
Edinburgh 12	10	10	Edinburgh 12	10	10
Glasgow 12	10	10	Glasgow 12	10	10
Manchester 12	10	10	Manchester 12	10	10
Newcastle 12	10	10	Newcastle 12	10	10
Nottingham 12	10	10	Nottingham 12	10	10
Sheffield 12	10	10	Sheffield 12	10	10
Sunderland 12	10	10	Sunderland 12	10	10
Swansea 12	10	10	Swansea 12	10	10
Torquay 12	10	10	Torquay 12	10	10
Wrexham 12	10	10	Wrexham 12	10	10

AM



PM



LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: min 6 am to 6 pm, 15C (59F); max 6 pm to 6 am, 10

MARKETS	THE POUND
FT 30 Share 1438.1 (-11.6)	US dollar 1.8655 (-0.0070)
FT-SE 100 1794.7 (-12.5)	W German mark 3.1322 (-0.0070)
USM (Datastream) 152.68 (+0.02)	Trade-weighted 77.9 (-0.2)

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Bank cuts its sales of sterling

Figures for Britain's official reserves, published yesterday, support the view that the Bank of England has scaled down its intervention in the foreign exchange markets.

The reserves rose by an underlying \$514 million (£275 million) last month, below market expectations. In March, as a result of upward pressure on sterling early in the month, the reserves rose by \$2.2 billion.

The pound, which would have been boosted by the announcement of a sizeable increase in the reserves, lost ground. It fell by 70 points to \$1.8655 and by half a penny to DM3.1346. The sterling index fell by 0.2 points to 77.9.

The reserves stood at a record \$47.86 billion (£25.47 billion) at the end of last month, up from \$47.52 billion in March and just \$22 billion at the beginning of 1987.

Holding lifted

Jacobs Suchard, the Swiss chocolate group, has raised the stock market for more shares in Rowntree, the confectionery group, to lift its holding to 23.4 per cent. Suchard paid between 905p and 913p.

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2048.08 (-10.28)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	Closed
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	2541.13 (+38.53)
Amsterdam	AEX	246.9 (+1.0)
Sydney	ASX	1443.2 (-1.5)
Frankfurt	DAX	1555.3 (+9.1)
Stocks	General	4754.0 (+27.3)
	FT-30	1438.1 (-11.6)
	FT-100	1794.7 (-12.5)
	FT-1000	186.6 (-2.7)
	FT-10000	97.22 (-0.25)
	FT-100000	88.72 (-0.02)
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Closing prices		Page 28

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES	FALLS
Tate & Lyle	UK Robinson
Pearson	UK Robinson
ECG	Cadbury Schweppes
Lynton Property	Royal Insurance
KLP Group	Underwoods
Cullinane	VSEL
Metal Box	Lucas
Freemantle	Reckitt & Coleman
AHL Holdings	Inchcape
A Kershaw	Closing prices
Star Computer	

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	5%
3-month interbank	8 1/8-9 1/8%
3-month eligible bills	7 1/2-7 3/4%
buying rate	
US Prime Rate	5 1/4%
Federal Funds	5 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills	6 1/2-6 3/4%
30-year bonds	9 1/4-9 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£/\$	\$1.8655
£/DM	DM3.1346
£/Sfr	Sfr1.3695
£/FF	FF5.7065
£/Yen	Yen124.97
£/Indo	Indo32.9
ECU	ECU 3.52236

GOLD

London Fixing	AM \$441.35
close	\$443.25-443.75
New York	Comex \$444.00-444.50

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (June)	pm \$16.1500 (\$16.17)
Denotes latest trading price	

THE TIMES STOCKWATCH

0898 141 141

STOCKWATCH gives instant access to more than 10,000 share, unit trust and bond prices. The information you require is on the following telephone numbers:

- Stock market comment: general market 0898 121220; company news 0898 121221; active shares 0898 121225; USM 0898 121250
- Quick check of share prices: Leaders A-K 0898 121240; Leaders L-Z 0898 121241; popular shares 0898 121277.
- Details, page 24

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Kuwait under pressure to cut BP stake

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The Government is understood to be preparing to try to persuade Kuwait to trim its holding in BP from 22 per cent to nearer 15 per cent.

A Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation was yesterday ordered into the Kuwaiti shareholding in BP, which was built up after the Government sold of its 31 per cent stake was launched just as the stock market collapsed last October.

Kuwait started building up its holding after the world underwriting community was left holding a third of the company, then worth £6 billion, at a partly-paid price of 120p a share, at a time when the market was pricing the shares at less than 70p.

BP said it would co-operate fully with the Monopolies Commission investigation. It said it had already provided technical information but was anxious to make clear that the inquiry was ordered at the Government's initiative and not because of any BP request.

BP has, however, made clear that it is unhappy that the stock market collapse allowed Kuwait to build up such a substantial stake.

It has always said it would be satisfied with a total overseas shareholding of about 23 per cent, given that it earns more from assets outside Britain than it does from business in this country.

However, control of such a stake by an overseas government, particularly one that is a leading oil producer and a member of Opec, with well-signalled ambitions to take a large share of the European refining and retail petrol market, could create problems.

Last week at the company's annual meeting, Sir Peter Walters, the BP chairman, expressed his concern about the stake. But he added that he was satisfied with assurances from the Kuwait Investment Office - the London group which runs the Kuwait national investment portfolio - that it was a long-term investor with no desire to influence management decisions.

The Kuwaiti shareholding has clouded the stock market perception of BP over the past six months and the MMC inquiry, which will take at most four months, will not remove that cloud.

One City oil analyst said investors seeking a stake in a large international oil company would now look more favourably at Shell, which has no political issues affecting its share price. For this reason the Government is believed to be anxious to do all it can to persuade Kuwait to reduce its stake to nearer 15 per cent.

While the Government is grateful that Kuwait, the largest market player among the oil producing nations, with £100 billion of funds at the disposal of the KIO, backed the shares when no other leading investor was prepared to, it now believes Kuwait can withdraw gracefully from the arena and take a profit.

However, an unloading by the KIO to take it down to 15 per cent would have to be controlled. At present prices, 7 per cent of the BP shares are worth about £400 million and such a large tranche flooding the market would depress the price.

However, the financial institutions which stood back and let the shares slide last October are understood to be more favourably inclined towards BP now and many would like to add BP to their portfolios.

City funds named in concert party inquiry

By Lawrence Lever

A Department of Trade report into share dealings in Equity & General, the motor and financial services group, has criticized three City institutions for being members of an illegal concert party.

The report says that the Britannia, Aitken House and Hill Samuel unit trust groups were members of an undisclosed concert party contrary to the Companies Act. It says that all three institutions were "at the very least... insufficiently vigilant."

The DTI report is the culmination of an inquiry into dealings in Equity's shares which commenced in September 1984 following a request from the company which was called Emray at that time.

It focused on the way in which a consortium of investors which included the three institutions, purchased a 27

per cent stake in Emray and was subsequently successful in getting three of its members elected to the board.

All three men, Mr Ben Anderson, a stockbroker with the firm of Raphael Zorn, Mr Murdoch Morrison, a self-styled company doctor and Mr Edward Demson, a Yorkshire solicitor, resigned in 1986.

Mr Anderson is criticized in the report for failing to disclose the existence of concert parties and for giving a false answer.

The inspectors, Mr Ian Salter, the senior partner of Stratus Turnbull, the broker, and Mr Philip Boyce, DTI solicitor, point out that they consider that Hill Samuel's involvement in concert party arrangements was "more marginal than the others."

The inspectors find a total

of eight concert parties existed. Apart from the institutions, Mr Roy Tucker, formerly of the Roemminster tax group, is named as a member of one of the concert parties.

Another of the participants in the concert party, Mr Alexandre Martin, could not be interviewed by the inspectors because at the time he was in a Swiss prison.

The inspectors also highlight the involvement of some members of the consortium in five other companies.

These were known at the time as Five Oaks, Tozer Kemsley Milburn, UK International, Blacks Camping & Leisure and Greenfields Leisure.

However, the inspectors draw no conclusions from the consortium's involvement in these companies.

Receiver appointed at Afor

By Our City Staff

A receiver has been appointed at Afor Investments, one of the biggest firms of licensed dealers still operating.

It was understood to have some 200 clients still dealing when it ceased trading yesterday.

Mr Alan Barrett, of DeLoitte, Haskins & Sells, was called in as receiver by Afor directors, who were unable to meet a demand by the company's bank, Chartered Bank, for some £800,000 of borrowings.

Since last week, when the Financial Services Act came into force, Afor had been trading as an interim authorized business, while its application to become a member of the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbra) and of the Securities Association was being processed. It was permitted to continue trading.

Trafalgar House, owner of The Ritz Hotel, the QE2 liner and various construction and property companies, is in a confident mood after posting a 57.7 per cent interim profit advance for the six months to the end of March.

Pretax profits rose from £54.1 million to £85.3 million, on a turnover up from £1.03 billion to £1.21 billion. The interim dividend rises from 6.5p to 7.2p a share.

Rudd bids £245m for John Crowther

By Cliff Feltham

Thomas Robinson, the industrial holding group headed by Mr Graham Rudd, yesterday launched a £245 million counter-bid for John Crowther, the textile group which had agreed a get-together with Coloroll, the soft furnishings and fabrics company.

John Crowther immediately urged its shareholders to sit tight. Mr John Ashcroft, the chairman of Coloroll, said he would not be raising his own £200 million bid. "I am very surprised by the bid from Thomas Robinson," he said. "It makes zero commercial logic to me. I don't think they know what they are doing. But I am not giving up yet."

Thomas Robinson is bidding a package of five of its own shares and £13.725 worth of new cumulative convertible redeemable 7.25 per cent preference shares for every 18 ordinary shares in Crowther.

Robert Fleming, the merchant

banker, is underwriting a 190p a share cash alternative.

The offer values Crowther at around 206p - 17 per cent more than the Coloroll offer. Yesterday Crowther shares, which have been firm in anticipation of a rival offer, closed 6p higher, at 189p.

There had been no talks ahead of the bid, but Mr Rudd has been a supporter of Mr Graham Waldron, the Crowther director running its carpets and floor coverings distribution business, who is being offered a place on the Thomas Robinson board if the deal goes through.

This business, which contributed half of Crowther's operating profits last year, would become a part of the Thomas Robinson group, while Mr Rudd's management task force is expected to squeeze more profits out of the Kosset and Crossley carpet manufacturing side.

looking for a fifth leg for the group, Mr Parker said.

There was the possibility of asset sales within the property division, totalling £80 million, and Trafalgar said it had received a number of approaches for its oil and gas. However, an improved oil price could see this division again back at 1985's £30 million profit level, and there was no current intention of selling these interests, Mr Parker added.

Trafalgar House is now a 6.9 per cent shareholder in Costain Group, having raised its stake from 4.9 per cent at the end of last September, and still regards this interest as a "strategic investment" Mr Parker said.

Trafalgar, always on the look out for suitable acquisitions, is more likely to concentrate on expanding its leisure and construction interests, rather than deliberately.

Sir Adrian rallies his chocolate soldiers



Into attack: Sir Adrian Cadbury addressing the faithful at yesterday's annual meeting (Photograph: James Morgan)

Cadbury calls for monopoly rethink

By Michael Tate

If General Cinema, Nestlé, Jacobs Suchard or any other chocolate soldier should attempt to get its sticky fingers on Cadbury Schweppes, it can expect the fiercest of opposition from Sir Adrian Cadbury's army of small shareholders.

About 500 filed into the Nine Kings suite at the Royal Lancaster Hotel in West London, where, clutching gifts of chocolates, they roared support for the chairman as he defied foreign predators.

Sir Adrian, whose charm won their hearts many years ago, perhaps showed a little more forbearance with their speeches on this occasion, but in the circumstances that was understandable.

Avuncular he may be, but Sir Adrian is a professional. His attack on the assault being made on the British confectionery industry was launched in his opening remarks, and set the tone for the entire meeting. But while his remarks were delivered to loyal small shareholders, his

words will have greater significance in the political corridors of power.

In a speech that will be echoed in many a British boardroom, Sir Adrian demanded that monopoly policy should be altered to account for Britain's entry into the European market.

Should it do so, it will open the way for a possible merger between Cadbury and Rowntree, its leading British rival which

One spoke movingly of the pre-war days when he splashed out his 2d pocket money for a Cadbury Bar at his local sweetshop in Ilkley, West Yorkshire, while another treasured his US trips during which he could indulge his passion for Peppermint Patties.

Others were more belligerent. One shareholder demanded that any General Cinema representative present identify himself. One such was there, apparently. But his embarrassment, and perhaps his neck, were spared by Sir Adrian before a lynch party could be formed.

"I don't think that would be quite in order," he gently chided his supporter, who promptly switched his attack to the institutions, voicing the fears of many shareholders that the future of the company could be decided by "young fund managers just in for a quick buck."

"The institutions take their responsibilities seriously."

Profits up at Royal Bank

By Richard Thomson
Banking Correspondent

The Royal Bank of Scotland Group yesterday hit the top end of City estimates, with a 20.3 per cent increase in pretax profits over the first half of the year, as lending surged and bad debt provisions fell substantially.

Profits rose from £114.1 million to £137.3 million as group assets jumped by 19 per cent to top £20 billion for the first time. The increase in lending came in both the corporate and retail banking operations. Mortgage lending rose rapidly to £1.3 billion, with about £5 million a week

BAA set for £40m property move

By John Bell, City Editor

BAA, the former British Airports Authority, is close to making its long-awaited move into property investment and development. It is considering a £40 million investment in Lynton Property and Reversionary, after purchasing call options from Banque Paribas Capital Markets.

The options, which expire next Monday, give BAA the right to buy 9.6 million shares

in Lynton, roughly 20 per cent of its equity.

Sir Norman Payne, BAA's chairman, said before the group was privatized last year that he wished to expand into businesses which were complementary to the running and development of airports.

Banque Paribas took the options over the 20 per cent stake in Lynton as security for a £15 million loan to the

Randsworth Trust group. The stake was built up last year.

Lynton's portfolio is roughly 57 per cent in office properties, 30 per cent in retail assets and the bulk of the rest in industrial property. The portfolio is in the South East, much in London's West End.

BAA is paying 20p each for the options which are exercisable at 380p per Lynton share.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Thomson T-Line in £2m acquisition

Thomson T-Line, the industrial mini-conglomerate being built up by Mr Hugo Biermann and Mr Julian Askin, the joint chairmen, has agreed to buy Kelverdeck, a Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, distributor of power cable, for an initial payment of £2 million. Kelverdeck, which distributes to electrical contractors, wholesalers, and the electricity generating boards, made pretax profits of £169,000 on turnover of £7.8 million in the year to end-October.

The initial payment is made up half in cash and the rest in new Thomson shares. A deferred consideration of £1 million will be paid, to be reduced or increased depending on whether profits are more or less than £501,000 in the current financial year.

Profit soars at Corton

Corton Beach, the Third Market company involved in the production and marketing of speciality foods, motor trading, textiles and leisure, made pretax profits of £1.9 million in the year to the end of January against £742,000 in the previous year. Turnover rose to £49.3 million from £19.5 million. The total dividend was raised from 0.4p to 0.5p.

Society leaps to £2.6m

The Walthamstow Building Society, based in East London, has more than doubled its profits to £2.6 million for the year to the end of March. The society's assets are up by 31 per cent to £212 million and mortgage advances have increased by 20 per cent to £74 million. No decision has been taken yet by the society about converting to a plc.

£3m Mercury drive

Mercury Communications is launching its first big advertising campaign next week with a £3 million spend. Using a 60-second television commercial as the spearhead for six weeks in six ITV regions, the Cable and Wireless subsidiary is trying to raise its profile with businessmen.

The campaign will also use advertisements in the national Press. Customer benefits which will be highlighted include long-distance call savings, fully itemized bills for all customers and good service.

Sutcliffe in £1.4m deal

Sutcliffe, Speakman, the activated carbon maker and chemicals trader, has agreed to buy John F Seyfried & Sons, the Gloucestershire maker of processed ingredients and commodities for the food industry, for a maximum of £1.4 million. Seyfried made pretax profits of £106,000 on turnover of £10.1 million in the year to June 26 1987.

Ash & Lacy purchase

Ash & Lacy, the metal cladding manufacturer and galvanizer, has bought the Albion Galvanising Company of Oldbury, West Midlands, for £950,000, with another £100,000 payable depending on the next two years' profits. Albion carries out similar work to Ash & Lacy's Joseph Ash & Son subsidiary, which now operates from eight sites around the country.

Albert Martin buy

Albert Martin Holdings, the clothing manufacturer, is buying the privately-owned Burnham Group of Nottingham, which supplies blouses and lingerie to Marks and Spencer, for just less than £1 million. Burnham has a turnover of about £7 million a year.

An initial payment for the ordinary Burnham shares of £325,000 will be satisfied by the issue of 300,000 new Albert Martin shares to the vendors. The rest of the equity is in the form of £658,000 worth of loan stock redeemable over the five years to 1993. Albert Martin has agreed to buy out the stock as payment becomes due in its own shares at the then market price.

Trafalgar sailing back to growth

The QE2 is back again, chugging across the oceans at full speed. Landlubbers are putting down roots in group properties at home; and Trafalgar House is feeling fairly chuffed with its performance in the six months ended March. It does so with every justification.

Pretax profits at £85.3 million against £54.1 million were well up to market expectations, and despite the pace of acquisitions, the advance was largely achieved through genuine organic growth.

After slipping in the past two full financial years, the all-important net earnings a share figure has shown a respectable advance, on the back of which there is a 10.8 per cent dividend increase, and real earnings per share growth looks assured for 1988.

Analysts have upgraded their year-end profit forecasts, and although gearing has marched from zero to 50 per cent, the group remains well funded for what looks like a busy six to 18 months ahead.

Construction was strong, with residential activities in Britain turning in a particularly good first half, and what sluggishness there was within houses because of the American and the dollar factor was more than made up by a return to the high seas of the QE2 flagship. Engineering was

soft, and oil and gas interests were only modestly higher.

However, there is now a stronger mood of confidence running through Trafalgar and what hesitation there was six months ago because of Black Monday seems largely to have disappeared.

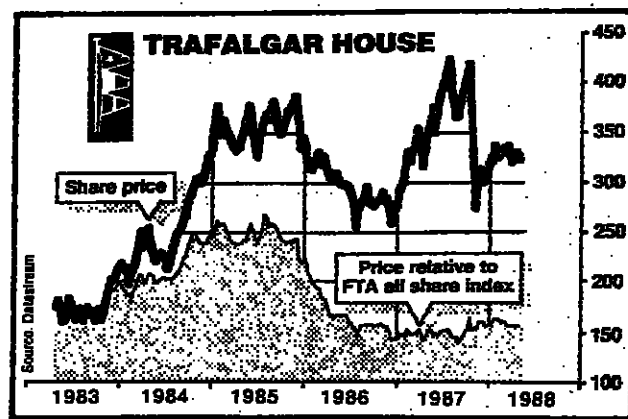
A series of large contracts has been won by the construction companies to put an overall £1.5 billion tag on the order book, with a hoped-for improvement in margins in the offing. And further deals in American building/property sector may not be far off.

On projected pretax profits of £223 million, up from earlier estimates of £217 million and compared with an actual £163.2 million, Trafalgar, at 326p, offers a prospective yield of 6.5 per cent and an earnings ratio of 9.2 — or a 17.5 per cent discount to the market.

The share looks underpriced.

Royal Bank of Scotland

Another set of healthy banking figures from Scotland. The Royal Bank of Scotland's interim profit growth of 20.3 per cent stands comparison with the impressive perfor-



mance by Bank of Scotland.

The Royal Bank has been working at increasing assets, achieving a 19 per cent rise over the six-month period spread across the retail and commercial sectors. It claims to have managed a small rise in lending margins by pulling away from big corporate lending, and concentrating on the middle market.

This has contributed to the 40 per cent profit growth of the clearing bank, after exceptional sales as property sales and pension fund holidays are taken into account.

Other areas have also performed well. Charterhouse continues to go from strength to strength in the corporate finance and development cap-

ital fields, and seems to have survived the stock market crash with minor injuries.

At the same time, the Royal Bank seems to have conquered — at least for the time being — the lumpy bad debts in oil and shipping which dogged its results in previous years. The bank therefore manages to be healthily provisioned while maintaining ample capital ratios, even after its purchase of Citizens Financial Group in the US.

The only serious drag on the results is the substantial increase in costs, partly the result of taking on all of AT Mays' staff and, no doubt, some largish bills related to the Citizens purchase. It is a little soon to say whether the

rise in the cost ratios is a "one-off" event, or a permanent feature.

The message of the results, though, is that the Royal Bank deserves rather better than the stock market is currently giving it. With a performance well ahead of most other British clearing banks, its p/e ratio remains unfairly average. With likely profits of around £300 million for the year a prospective p/e of 5.2 seems niggardly.

Davy Corp

Losing £25 million on a £100-million contract is not impressive, even if the circumstances which conspired against account-prone Davy Corporation are reasonably understandable.

Even so, perhaps the company was overconfident, having successfully built 38 other Wellman-Lord flue gas desulfurization plants, in adapting this one from coal to lignite or brown coal without conclusively establishing the problems which might arise.

Admittedly results from Davy's initial tests into the effects of higher temperature levels were misleading, allowing construction to proceed before discovering plant modifications were necessary.

A brave face is being put on the episode, with Davy claiming that it has provided good experience for the future. But there must be cheaper ways.

Looking ahead, the overall order book is 30 per cent ahead with the value-added element which Davy pays particular attention to, up by 12 per cent.

Results for the year just ended, to be reported in July, are unlikely to top £10 million with anything between £20 million and £30 million possible for the following year.

Despite the modest p/e ratio, the shares remain attractive only for their 7 per cent yield. There are other companies on a similar rating with better quality earnings.

UK takeover total doubled in Europe

By Colin Narborough

Latest figures on the takeover activities of British companies abroad help to refute criticism that acquirers are neglecting Europe in the run-up to the 1992 Single Market.

In the January to April period, British firms made 62 takeovers — almost double the number in the same period last year — in Continental Europe, data compiled by *Acquisitions Monthly* shows.

In value terms, acquisitions on the Continent almost quadrupled to £640 million. For the whole of last year, the number of companies acquired in Europe was 134, at a cost of £1.25 billion.

France tops the target countries, accounting for the three

biggest acquisitions by British firms this year — CAP's bid for Sema-Metra, WCRS Group's for SGCM, and Coates Brothers' bid for Lorilleux.

The United States is prime hunting ground for British predators. In the first four months, British companies made 124 acquisitions in the US — up 50 on the same period last year.

In value terms, there was less change: \$2.68 billion (£1.43 billion) as opposed to \$2.84 billion previously.

Unresolved mega-bids, such as BAT's bid for Farmers and Beazers' offer for Koppers — if successful — are likely to make 1988 a record year for US acquisitions.

Equipment deal for Blackwood

Blackwood Hodge, the construction equipment distributor, has bought the property and equipment of Ferguson Supply, a Canadian earthmoving machinery dealership, from Kendavis Holding Company of the US, for about Can\$10 million (£4.3 million).

Ferguson supplies a range of earthmoving, construction and related equipment, with an annual turnover of about Can\$33 million.

The British company will succeed Ferguson as distributor for Terex and Champion.

Newarthill qualified

The 1986-87 accounts of Newarthill, the construction and property group which trades under the name Sir Robert McAlpine & Sons, were qualified by Touche Ross, the company's auditors.

According to Touche Ross, Newarthill had not complied with Statement of Standard Accounting Practice No 19 by including property investment interests in its accounts at an historical cost of £27.5 million — after charging depreciation — rather than revaluing them.

Apart from this, Touche Ross said the accounts give a true and fair view of the company's affairs.

Royal denies French stake

Royal Insurance, Britain's largest composite insurer, has dismissed as press speculation reports in the French business newspaper *Tribune de l'Expansion* that Compagnie Financière du Groupe Victoire, a French insurance group, would be taking a large minority stake in Royal.

The report in *Tribune de l'Expansion* business daily said a series of cross link-ups between Royal and Victoire would soon be announced.

CPI Holdings tops £1m

CPI Holdings, Ireland's biggest builder merchant and do-it-yourself group, more than doubled pretax profits in 1987, from Ir£557,000 to Ir£1.27 million (£1.08 million). Earnings per share are up from 2.1p to 7.4p.

Mushrooming Booker

Booker, the agribusiness, health products and food conglomerate, has agreed to pay £4 million cash for Country Kitchen Foods — claimed to be Britain's largest mushroom grower — to HJ Heinz.

\$1m savings for Guinness

Guinness, the drinks group, has entered into three contracts with North European Atlantic Conference, Dart Line and Maersk Line to ship its spirits and beer products to North America.

The move will initially produce direct savings of about \$1 million (£534,045).

Payout at Cronite

The Cronite Group, the nickel processor and casting maker, has returned to the dividend list after a five-year absence with a 1p interim payment, on reporting pretax profits for the six months to end-March of £633,000, up from £264,000 last time.

US plans for equity moneybroking

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Four US securities houses are among six firms which are to apply to become equity-only moneybrokers, following this week's announcement of the Stock Exchange Council decision to enlarge existing equity borrowing and lending facilities.

The council decision, which was taken at the end of April after a six-month examination which began before the stock market crash on October 19, will allow member firms to act as moneybrokers, borrowing and lending in equity securities only.

The demand by market-

makers and others for additional scope to borrow and lend equities came during last summer's boom in equity turnover.

At that time, the Bank of England set an informal limit on the nine existing Stock Exchange moneybrokers — Sheppards, Hoare Govett, James Capel, King & Shaxson, Lazard, LM, Prudential-Bache, Warburg and Cazenove — which was that no more than a quarter of their moneybroking business should be related to equities, with the rest in gilts.

The new equity-only moneybrokers will be required to

produce proof of demand for their services from a number of market-makers, and a maximum of 25 per cent of their equity lending will be permitted to their parent firms.

Mr Peter Wells, the head of the Stock Exchange moneybroking operation at Sheppards, said that existing moneybrokers were not opposed to the opening-up of the market to new entrants.

But, he added, after a "bonanza" last year, the slump in equity turnover since October 19 had reduced demand and profitability of equity moneybroking.

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Fads defence claims Ward White lacks expertise

By Cliff Feltham

AG Stanley, the Fads, Decor 8 and Home Charm paints and wallpaper chain, yesterday attacked the hostile £100 million takeover bid from Ward White. It said: "Our market is capable of being ruined by those who don't understand it."

The company, in a hard-hitting defence document, says Ward White, which owns the Payless and Halfords chains, does not have the expertise to run Stanley properly.

"Ward White has had a series of failures in UK high street retailing. The way that the Focus Shoes and Zodiac Toys chains were acquired

and subsequently sold off clearly demonstrates this."

Mr Roger Regan, the Stanley managing director, says the company has not made a profit forecast because it is a totally different business to what it was 12 months ago after buying the Decor 8 and Home Charm chains.

The board controls 18.9 per cent of the company and says it will not accept the Ward White bid. However, the outcome is likely to be decided by Williams Holdings, which is sitting on a 25.7 per cent stake and has so far given no indication of whether it intends to support Ward White or the management.

"Williams have said they

would prefer not to decide the outcome of the bid," said Mr Regan. "We do not know which way they will go."

In its defence document, the Stanley board says the company, with its 509 retail outlets supported by wallcoverings and paint manufacturing, is a unique retail group. "This chain could not, without extreme difficulty, be assembled by anyone else trying to enter this market."

"The Fads, Decor 8 and Home Charm chains have only been combined since February 1988. The enormous benefits of combination are, unsurprisingly, for the future," it points out.

Stanley also hit back at

Ward White claims that it sold too many low margin products that would be better sold out of town.

It says: "The only low margin products we sell are certain brand leader paints stocked as a customer service. Should we ask our customers buying high margin wallcoverings to travel out of town to buy brand leader paint?"

Stanley is also considering expansion. "Having assembled our three chains, we have identified over 300 suitable locations in which we are still not represented."

Stanley shares closed unchanged at 307p yesterday, compared with the 253p value of the cash alternative proposed by Ward White.

Davy in warning of profit setback

By Alexandra Jackson

Davy Corporation, Britain's largest process engineering group, yesterday gave warning that pretax profits for the year to end-March 1988 would be hit by a £17.5 million provision to cover cost overruns on the same contract.

It was also revealed that 1986-87 pretax profits of £20.2 million had been struck after deducting a £7.4 million provision to cover cost overruns on the same contract.

The problems have arisen because the plant is the first built by Davy to operate on flue gas from brown coal or lignite. The group has, however, built 38 other desulphurization plants using the same Wellman-Lord design. It is working on another brown coal plant at Rummelsburg, in East Germany, and has made provision against 1987-88 trading results to cover any potential modifications.

Lignite has a high sulphur and moisture content which creates higher temperature flue gas. This in turn leads to a significantly higher formation of sulphate which has prevented the Buschhaus plant from operating at full capacity.

It was initially commissioned in June last year but problems were identified last October. It will be recommissioned in November.

Experts, both inside and outside Davy have developed modifications which are expected to solve the problem.

The client, Braunschweigische Kohlenbergwerke, has agreed to bear some of the additional cost of adapting the plant, which, although considerable, is not thought to involve as much money as Davy has provided.

At the beginning of the financial year, City analysts had expected Davy to report pretax profits for 1987-88 of about £27 million, but worries about this contract led to modest downgrades at the turn of the year.

However, the eventual provision was considerably higher than had been expected and forecasts are now down as low as £10 million.

The shares gained 5p yesterday to 138p, helped by a positive statement on prospects and a pledge to maintain the dividend at 6.25p for the year, despite the profits downgrade. They have been poor performers over the past year, however, lagging the market by 18 per cent.

Times, page 24

COMMENT David Brewerton

Bitter irony of UK's bid for leadership

All experience of competition policy dictates that if Cadbury mounted a bid for Rowntree, saving it from either a rape by Suchard or the clammy embrace of Nestlé, the idea would not go beyond first post. The plan would be paraded before the Monopolies and Mergers Commission faster than you could say Black Magic.

That would leave the field free to Rowntree's ardent suitors, unless their plans, too, were flung into limbo by an investigation. That seems unlikely, although after the extraordinarily tardy decision of Lord Young to ask for an investigation of the Kuwait Investment Office shareholding in BP (of which more below), it is distinctly possible.

Sir Adrian Cadbury chose the annual meeting of his own company to ask for answers to two questions about the current merger mania. His were not the comments of a disinterested outsider but of a company chairman faced with a growing menace of a potentially hostile shareholder, General Cinema.

The first concerned reciprocity, and whether companies which are bid-proof in their own countries should be allowed to shop at random in Britain. It is tempting to argue for reciprocity, but it is a short circuit for a country such as Britain which has to earn its corn from trade. Against that, as Sir Adrian pointed out, if British companies which set themselves up to be a force in Europe are to be picked off, one by one, by bid-proof companies outside the Common Market, "then what business leadership will Britain be giving to the new Europe?" Precious little, Sir Adrian.

Sir Adrian's other point deserves close and urgent attention from Lord Young, who has set his cap at positioning Britain as a force in the barrier-free

marketplace. In the run-up to 1992, is competition policy to be decided by reference to domestic markets or across Europe? If the answer is to be the latter, which is the only reasonable one, then the emphasis on which bids go to the Monopolies Commission, and which do not, should be pointed in that direction. At present, the emphasis is on the home market where, for instance, a Cadbury Rowntree Schweppes plc would control more than 50 per cent of the domestic sweetie market.

They have, as Sir Adrian pointed out, earned their place in the market by careful investment and nurturing of brands, and the ultimate ownership of the rights to Smarties and Milk Tray is a matter of national interest.

Biting bullets is less attractive than biting chocolate bars, but Sir Adrian is right to ask for swift decisions before they become irrelevant.

Referral worries

Any indication that the Government was prepared to block foreign investment in British companies would misfire given the high profile bids being conducted by British companies abroad. So the Monopolies Commission examination of the implications of the 22 per cent stake in British Petroleum held by the Kuwait Investment Office is specific to the role of the Kuwaiti Government.

If the Kuwait Investment Office submits to the inquiry, its reward may be that it has to divest part of its holding, which would drive down the BP price. The bigger worry is that it will decide to pull out and sell its shares to a predator such as Exxon.

Takeshita's new deal

Japan has become the good boy of the world economy. It is fulfilling its obligations under the summit co-operation agreements by raising growth to 4.2 per cent in 1987 through increased domestic spending and low interest rates even though its notorious export surplus is coming down quite sharply because of the yen's appreciation. It is even raising its Third World aid when others are cutting back. But all this counts for little in the eyes of Europeans and Americans, who are obsessed only with trade disputes, some real (like spirit taxes) but others (like the Kansai airport question) increasingly artificial.

If he did not realize this before he arrived in Rome for his European tour, Noboru Takeshita, the new prime minister, will be fully aware of it by now. He chose a lunch at Mansion House yesterday for an important speech launching Japan's "International Co-operation Initiative", a long-term plan to play a greater part in the international commu-

nity. The British were more interested in further changes to spirit taxes which discriminate against Scotch and brandy and about how many more City securities firms are to be allowed into the Tokyo Stock Exchange. And Mr Takeshita will find the British the most friendly European nation. (It must have been something of a relief that the presidential elections ruled out a trip to France).

As Mrs Thatcher noted, these trade irritants are unfinished business, no longer the substance of what Britain and Japan have to say to each other. Britain should focus more on the benefits of responding to Mr Takeshita's desire for closer links between Europe and Japan instead of each relying on bilateral links with the US. To start with, Japan is the best available ally on currency stabilization. Mr Takeshita could also help Britain resist the protectionist trend in the European Community, which looks likely to worsen after 1992.

UES at £36.7m in first full year

By Derek Harris

United Engineering Steels (UES), one of the Phoenix joint venture companies set up involving both the public and private steel sectors, has made pretax profits of £36.7 million in its first full year of operations.

UES, which is based at Rotherham, South Yorkshire, has established itself in 21 months as the largest producer of engineering grade steels in Europe. Mr Ian Donald, the UES chairman, described the 1987 results as "encouraging". But he added: "More remains to be done to improve significantly the return on assets."

The company, which is owned 60 per cent by British Steel Corporation and 40 per cent by the GKN engineering group, is Britain's second largest-steel maker, producing more than 2 million tonnes of liquid steel during 1987. Productivity was up 15 per cent on the year before, with sales value per employee in engineering and forging more than 19 per cent ahead.

Profits had benefited from increased demand for engineering steels and forgings together with favourable raw material prices and initially favourable exchange rates, said Mr John Pennington, the chief executive.

Since then, electricity prices have increased, there are worries over raw material costs and currency changes are making it tougher for exports which account for 30 per cent of production.

However, the company expects to draw increasing benefits from its investment in the latest technologies. In August it plans to bring on stream a £73 million bloom caster at Rotherham.

This will raise UES's capability for the latest cost-cutting continuous casting to up to 85 per cent of total production and is part of a four-year £164 million investment programme.

UES also reported an encouraging sales start to 1988 and Mr Pennington expects earnings to reach the 1987 level. A main factor being strong automotive demand.

Thomson appointed to IoD post



Sir Adam Thomson (above), the chairman of British Caledonian Airways until it was taken over by British Airways, has been appointed dep-

uty chairman of the Institute of Directors. He has already formed a new company, Gold Stag, since leaving BCal. Sir Adam, aged 61, said one

of the main challenges facing Britain in the 1990s, and in which the IoD would play an important part, was the opportunity Europe would offer.

Maxwell confirms interest in buying Crown Suppliers

By Colin Nairbrough

Hollis, the acquisitive engineering-to-services division of Mr Robert Maxwell's Pergamon group, yesterday said it had submitted proposals to the Government about the Crown Suppliers, and was confident of making an "attractive" offer, providing details of the Whitehall furniture-maker's business were made available.

This formal confirmation of its interest in the Crown Suppliers coincided with a high-profile product launch by the Government trading fund for furniture and fire safety

equipment, for which privatization plans were announced in February.

The Crown Suppliers' Context range is expected to earn it £14 million to £15 million over the next four to five years, helping to sustain its 20 per cent share of the furniture market.

Its wooden and metal furniture sales accounted for £72 million of £241 million total sales in the 1986-87 financial year. The Government requires it to give a 5 per cent return on capital employed.

The Context range incor-

porates an innovative form of cable management, with free standing cable ducts that marry with the back of desks, giving greater flexibility and more space for electronic equipment.

The Government has freed Whitehall departments and other official customers from any obligation to purchase from the Crown Suppliers, forcing it to compete for its market share.

Other known contenders for the Crown Suppliers, which is expected to carry a price tag of about £100 million, include Hillsdown Holdings

Earl to lead demerged Tranwood

By Alison Eadie

Tranwood Group, the financial services and hosiery group run by Mr Nick Oppenheim, is proposing to demerge itself.

The financial services division - which consists of the mini-merchant bank, Inncorp Earle, Ariel (UK), the agency stockbroker and Blackwood Financial Communications, a financial marketing consultancy - will take the Tranwood name and apply for a listing on the USM.

Mr Peter Earl, the founder of Inncorp Earle and the great proponent of demerger, will become chief executive of the new Tranwood group.

Mr Earl first advocated his demerger ideas when advising in a bid for Ertel, the publishing and information group. He then repeated it in a bid for London & Northern, the construction and engineering group and most recently dur-

ing Benlox's bid for Storehouse, the retail group.

All three bids were unsuccessful.

The hosiery division will keep the full listing under the new name of Bear Brand.

Shareholders will retain their existing shares and receive new shares in the new Tranwood in proportion to their shareholding.

Bankers in rude wealth

New Yorkers' reputation for rudeness may be undeserved, but National Westminster Bank is taking no chances. Its 135-branch network in the New York City area is offering customers, would-be borrowers and depositors \$5 (£2.60) compensation if cashiers are rude, or \$50 if the bank fails to respond to a request for a personal or car loan within 24 hours. If existing customers have any other service complaints, maintenance charges on cheque accounts will be refunded. The "money for foul-up" policy is part of a campaign to promote the bank's services. So far Nat West has coughed up \$50 to a man whose request for a car loan was not dealt with in the allotted time because of a discrepancy over a telephone number. A few payments have also been made for rudeness, says Frank Scaramella of NatWest US's marketing department. But no compensation, I am afraid, for time spent waiting in a queue in the bank. We keenly await news of when the bank's home-grown customers also start getting kickbacks in the I am sure unlikely event of sluggish service from their local NatWest.

Fawning

National Secretaries Week in America has thrown up some unusual presents. A big seller has been a bouquet offered by Washington society florist Birds, named after the most loyal secretary even JR Ewing could hope for. Birds' star

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Crossing the channels

Robert Maxwell has been at it again. At a cosy telly get-together in Cannes on Sunday, the outspoken media baron called on Europe to protect itself from the import of US television programming. "If my American friends don't like this," Maxwell said, "then they had better lump it." But no sooner had the fearless

pioneer sat down than TFI, the French television channel of which Maxwell owns 12.5 per cent, began showing *Von Ryan's Express*. Earlier in the day TFI decided that what French culture values most was *Tarzan* and *Star Trek*. After *Von Ryan's Express* came *Hart to Hart*. Oh well, *tant pis*.

Star gazer

Donald Regan, the former White House chief of staff, does not disclose whether, like his friend Nancy Reagan, his colleague Michael Clarke relies on astrology to foretell the future. In his new book, Regan reveals that Nancy consults astrologers for guidance about Ronald's speeches. But he makes no mention of Clark's muse. Clark's latest coup was predicting in his April 20 stock market column in *The Times* that industrial conglomerate Thomas Robinson was preparing to bid for John Crowther, a textiles company which was then already the target of an agreed £215 million offer from Coloroll, the wall coverings and soft furnishings group headed by John Ashcroft. Yesterday Robinson unveiled its £245 million bid, lifting Crowther's shares by another 5p to 189p. If it is any help to anyone, Clark's star sign is Aries.



"That's why my fund manager conveniently loses his voice from time to time..."

Power to the people

I wonder whether, as he and Margaret Thatcher sipped Glenlivet into the wee small hours of the morning, Noboru Takeshita serenaded his hostess with a few bars of *Life is a Stage*, his favourite song. The Japanese prime minister, currently visiting Britain, apparently likes the song's opening phrase: "I'll persist until I achieve my aim." Such mottoes are quite common in Japan, and probably explain why they are so successful at making kangaroos out of folded up newspapers. At a recent seminar in Tokyo to launch *Nikkei Women*, a new journal, leading Japanese businesswomen were asked for their mottoes for success. The first setback for us Brits is that not many of us have a motto for success. The second is that it would take us a while to dream up any to match those that are doing the rounds in Japan. One Tokyo businesswoman boasted the motto: "Dreams and challenges. A spirit of adventure is worth much more than a bottle of cosmetics." I bet they say the very same thing at Harvard Business School.

● Save & Prosper's chairman Chomeley Messer, who sits on the advertising and disciplinary committees of Lauro, the new self-regulatory body for the life assurance industry, failed S&P's compliance exam when he sat it with all the rookie S&P salesmen recently. "I was too damn clever," he complains, just like millions of students before him.

Joe Joseph

RUN DEG DEFN

$$F = P * (1 + I / 100)^N$$

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
WRT	TRACE ON	TRACE OFF	DEG	RAD	GRA	PRON P

Basic Problem?



Simple Solution

Even the sharpest business brains can come unstuck when it comes to working out lengthy market research formulae and compound interest calculations. Now Casio have changed all that with their range of pocket computers.

Complex business problems can be solved quickly and accurately, literally at the touch of a button. You don't even need to speak "computer language" because the Casio FX730P is as easy to use as a calculator.

Using the Formulae Function Memory, complex operations can be carried out using straightforward instructions. For example, the Compound Interest calculation shown above can be entered in either mathematical variables or in easily understood words:

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plus a built in library of 116 formulae, is a match for many full-sized PC's. Its standard memory can be expanded to a massive 40K.

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The prices in this section refer to Tuesday's trading

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

MONEY MARKETS

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Open	High	Low	Close	Set		Open	High	Low	Close	Set
Aluminum	1.48	1.49	1.47	1.48	1.48	Three Month Studies	Previous open interest 3027				
Copper	0.97	0.97	0.96	0.97	0.97	Jan 81	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Gold	122.00	122.00	121.90	122.00	122.00	Feb 81	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Crude Oil	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	Mar 81	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Crude Oil	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	Apr 81	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Crude Oil	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	May 81	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Crude Oil	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	Jun 81	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Crude Oil	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	Jul 81	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Crude Oil	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	Aug 81	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Crude Oil	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	Sep 81	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Crude Oil	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	Oct 81	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Crude Oil	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	Nov 81	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Crude Oil	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	Dec 81	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Crude Oil	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	Jan 82	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Crude Oil	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	Feb 82	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Crude Oil	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	Mar 82	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Crude Oil	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	Apr 82	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Crude Oil	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	May 82	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Crude Oil	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	Jun 82	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Crude Oil	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	Jul 82	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Crude Oil	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	Aug 82	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Crude Oil	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	Sep 82	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Crude Oil	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	Oct 82	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Crude Oil	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	Nov 82	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Crude Oil	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	Dec 82	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Crude Oil	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	Jan 83	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Crude Oil	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	Feb 83	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Crude Oil	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	Mar 83	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Crude Oil	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	Apr 83	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Crude Oil	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	May 83	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Crude Oil	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	Jun 83	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Crude Oil	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	Jul 83	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Crude Oil	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	Aug 83	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10
Crude Oil	1.10	1.10	1.09	1.10	1.10	Sep 83	91.10	91.10	91.06	91.10	91.10

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No.	Company	Group	Only on Gold Card
1	Scott & Robertson	Industrial S-Z	
2	Evode	Chemicals/Fine	
3	Jardine Math	Industrial E-K	
4	Metro	Property	
5	BOC (sa)	Industrial A-D	
6	Stoke	Hotels/Catering	
7	Davy	Industrial A-D	
8	Carroll & S	Building/Roads	
9	Chapman	Industrial A-D	
10	Chapman	Leisure	
11	Chapman (M)	Building/Roads	
12	DEC	Industrial A-D	
13	Berndt Quinlan	Industrial A-D	
14	Brake Bros	Food	
15	Birmingham Mint	Industrial A-D	
16	Yorkshire Chem	Chemicals/Fine	
17	Trusthouse PA (sa)	Hotels/Catering	
18	Harris (Philip)	Industrial E-K	
19	Lifeline	Industrial L-R	
20	General Motor	Motor/Aircraft	
21	Dormin	Electricals	
22	Sea & Fish	Building/Roads	
23	Wolstenholme Bank	Chemicals/Fine	
24	Landfill	Leisure	
25	Essexport	Industrial E-K	
26	Richardson West	Industrial L-R	
27	Aurum	Industrial A-D	
28	Gaskell Broadbent	Food	
29	Werner Howard	Industrial S-Z	
30	Edwin	Industrial E-K	
31	Trinity Ind.	Motor/Aircraft	
32	Micro Focus	Electricals	
33	Unifac	Electricals	
34	Grainthorpe (sa)	Industrial E-K	
35	West Group	Building/Roads	
36	West Bank	Building/Roads	
37	Leicester Building	Industrial E-K	
38	Deverest Ridge	Property	
39	City & County	Property	
40	Alphabetic	Electricals	
41	Hardanger	Property	
42	Widening Office	Property/Stores	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS

1988	Low	High	Open	Close	Change	%
1	100	100	100	100	0	0
2	100	100	100	100	0	0
3	100	100	100	100	0	0
4	100	100	100	100	0	0
5	100	100	100	100	0	0
6	100	100	100	100	0	0
7	100	100	100	100	0	0
8	100	100	100	100	0	0
9	100	100	100	100	0	0
10	100	100	100	100	0	0
11	100	100	100	100	0	0
12	100	100	100	100	0	0
13	100	100	100	100	0	0
14	100	100	100	100	0	0
15	100	100	100	100	0	0
16	100	100	100	100	0	0
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18	100	100	100	100	0	0
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85	100	100	100	100	0	0
86	100	100	100	100	0	0
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95	100	100	100	100	0	0
96	100	100	100	100	0	0
97	100	100	100	100	0	0
98	100	100	100	100	0	0
99	100	100	100	100	0	0
100	100	100	100	100	0	0

1988	Low	High	Open	Close	Change	%
1	100	100	100	100	0	0
2	100	100	100	100	0	0
3	100	100	100	100	0	0
4	100	100	100	100	0	0
5	100	100	100	100	0	0
6	100	100	100	100	0	0
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76	100	100	100	100	0	0
77	100	100	100	100	0	0
78	100	100	100	100	0	0
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Procedure for discharging orders granted to one side

Dormeuil Frères SA and Another v Nicolian International (Textiles) Ltd
Before Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor
[Judgment April 22]

It was not the correct procedure to apply to discharge an *ex parte* injunction, or an *Anton Piller* order, authorizing the search of premises and seizure of goods or documents found therein, or a *Mareva* order, preventing the disposal of assets within the jurisdiction, at an interlocutory hearing.

Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, so held in the Chancery Division on a motion by the plaintiffs, Dormeuil Frères SA and Nicolian International (Textiles) Ltd, seeking an interlocutory injunction restraining the defendant, Nicolian International (Textiles) Ltd, from manufacturing or selling cloth bearing the trade mark "Dormeuil" and on Nicolian's motion seeking to set aside an *Anton Piller* order made by Mr Justice Hoffmann on February 26, 1988 under which goods in Nicolian's premises were seized and taken into the custody of Dormeuil's solicitor.

Mr Peter Leaver, QC and Mr Richard Miller, QC for Dormeuil; Mr Alastair Wilson, QC and Mr Alastair Drysdale Wilson for Nicolian.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR said that Dormeuil Frères SA was a French company and the owner of the registered trade mark "Dormeuil". Dormeuil Ltd was its wholly owned subsidiary. Both traded in the cloth business. Nicolian was an English company, a wholesaler in cloth, whose ruling spirit was Mr Nicolian.

In the course of an action against Nicolian to prevent the use of the Dormeuil trademark on counterfeit cloth, Nicolian sought on an *ex parte* application to set aside an *Anton Piller* order from Mr Justice Hoffmann:

- 1 prohibiting Nicolian from manufacturing or selling any cloth bearing the Dormeuil or from destroying any such cloth or any document relating to the sale of such cloth;
- 2 ordering the delivery up of all such cloth or documents and the names and addresses of any persons connected with the sale of such cloth; and
- 3 giving permission to the person serving the order to enter the premises to remove the cloth and documents.

The application was supported by evidence consisting of 350 pages of affidavits and exhibits for it was not enough just to show that Nicolian was in possession of counterfeit material. Dormeuil also had to persuade Mr Justice Hoffmann that Mr Nicolian was dishonest and might destroy the goods and documents before an order to enter the premises could be served.

The evidence that Mr Nicolian had acted dishonestly included, *inter alia*, the allegations (a) that the price at which he had bought the cloth was so low that he must have known it was counterfeit; (b) that in rolls of genuine cloth but not only "Dormeuil" but also "Made in

England" was woven into the selvage and the counterfeit cloth bore no such legend; and (c) that the length of the bales of genuine and counterfeit cloth was significantly different.

Mr Justice Hoffmann made the order on February 26, 1988 and it was executed on the same day. Documents and 24,000 metres of cloth were seized and taken to the custody of Dormeuil's solicitors.

Mr Nicolian now claimed that the *ex parte* order should never have been granted as it was based on evidence in which Dormeuil had failed to disclose material facts.

Those amounted to the fact that it was impossible to tell whether the cloth was genuine since: (a) where there was intermingling between merchants substantial discounts could be obtained; (b) that some Dormeuil cloth was made up in France and did not have "Made in England" in the selvage; and (c) genuine material in bales of different lengths was available.

There was bulky evidence in reply and rejoinder and the total mass of evidence before his Lordship was over 750 pages.

The issues were: (i) should the *ex parte* order be set aside; (ii) should goods worth £180,000 be returned; and (iii) what should be the position as to the injunction against selling the counterfeit cloth until trial.

Both parties accepted that some form of injunction should continue.

It was a basic principle that a plaintiff seeking *ex parte* relief should make full disclosure of all material facts. If that were not made a court might discharge an *ex parte* order on that ground alone, but if when the matter came before the court *inter partes* justice required the continuation of the order it could be made notwithstanding some non-disclosure at the *ex parte* application.

In particular there were three decisions in the Court of Appeal, *Yardley v Higon* (1984) FSR 304; *Lloyds Bowmaker Ltd v Britannia Arrow Holdings plc* (The Times March 19, 1987) and *Brink's-Mat Ltd v Elcom Ltd* (June 17, 1987, unreported) which suggested that to have the *ex parte* order lifted for material non-disclosure was a discretion, not an absolute right.

It was his Lordship's experience of those principles that they frequently gave rise to an application to discharge *ex parte* orders and, as in this case, it was frequently made at the same time as the plaintiff's application to continue the order *inter partes*.

The effect was to increase the duration and complexity of interlocutory proceedings to a great extent with endless going through the evidence. The relevant question at the *inter partes* stage was not what had happened in the past but what should happen in the future.

The court could not make a concluded finding of fact without a detailed investigation into allegation and counter-allegation. In circumstances when it was not possible to do so, the conduct of the case such an investigation was a waste of the parties' money.

Time-bar against radio base plea

Regina v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte Kent and Others
Before Mr Justice Pill
[Judgment May 4]

A resident who discovered on January 13, 1988 that planning permission had been granted to erect a cellular radio base near his flat was time-barred under section 245 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 from applying to the High Court for relief, as the decision of the inspector appointed by the secretary of state to allow an appeal from the refusal of the London Borough of Ealing to grant planning permission was dated November 12, 1987.

Mr Justice Pill so held in the Queen's Bench Division in refusing an application for judicial review of the decision of an inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for the Environment.

Section 245 of the 1971 Act provides: "If any person... (a) is aggrieved... he may, within six

weeks from the date on which the order is confirmed or the action is taken, as the case may be, make an application to the High court under this section."

Mr Keith Lindblom for the applicants; Mr John Laws for the secretary of state; Mr John Hamney for Racial Vodafone Ltd.

MR JUSTICE PILL said Racial Vodafone applied to Ealing for planning permission to erect a cellular radio base station at Hanger Lane, Ealing.

Near the site there was a large block of flats and the council would be revisiting the observations. However, they did not write to the applicant and some of his neighbours.

On November 20, 1986 the council refused the application and the company appealed to the secretary of state by notice dated March 16, 1987.

The council again notified local residents of the appeal but Mr Kent and many others were not

His Lordship shared the view of Lord Justice Slade in the *Brink's-Mat* case where he said: "Nevertheless, the nature of the principle, as I see it, is essentially penal and in its application the practical realities of any case before the court cannot be overlooked."

"By their very nature, *ex parte* applications usually necessitate the giving and taking of instructions and the preparation of the requisite drafts in some haste. Particularly, in heavy commercial cases, the borderline between material facts and non-material facts may be a somewhat uncertain one."

"While in no way discounting the heavy duty of candour and care which falls on persons making *ex parte* applications, I do not think the application of the principle should be carried to extreme lengths."

"In one or two other recent cases coming before this court, I have suspected signs of a growing tendency on the part of some litigants against whom *ex parte* injunctions have been granted, or of their advisers, to rush to the court with a claim for an order, without having given sufficient thought as to how it should meet its obligations in an orderly manner bearing in mind its special position in law."

The court, in a reserved judgment, dismissed an appeal against the *ex parte* order made by Mr Justice Hoffmann (The Times September 2, 1987; [1987] 1 WLR 1711).

On a notice of motion dated June 17, 1987, given by Mr Justice Hoffmann, the court said that it was not the correct procedure to apply to discharge an *ex parte* order, or an *Anton Piller* order, or a *Mareva* order at an interlocutory hearing. The sole relevant question at the *inter partes* stage was not what had happened in the past but what should happen in the future.

Accordingly, his Lordship would stand over Nicolian's motion seeking to set aside Dormeuil's *ex parte* order; adjourn Dormeuil's motion to come on as a trial of the action; and the injunction should go in the normal form except that a provision would be attached that Nicolian would not be liable for failing to disclose material facts in the past but what should happen in the future.

Solicitors: Denton Hall Burgin & Warrens; Robbins Oliver & Blake Laphorn for Chaffic Street & Co, Manchester.

By a decision letter dated November 12, 1987 the inspector allowed the appeal. Mr Kent heard of the planning proposal on January 13, 1988 and applied for judicial review on February 11, 1988.

Anticipating a point on jurisdiction, Mr Lindblom had sought to argue, *inter alia*, that as the procedure in this agreement was flawed the decision was invalid in section 245 did not apply as the secretary of state had no jurisdiction to entertain the appeal.

However, his Lordship did not consider that a decision of the secretary of state could be challenged outside the six-week period on the ground that the procedure of consultation was flawed.

Solicitors: Leslie Oliver & Co, Ealing; Treasury Solicitor; Mr David Whittaker, Fleet.

ITC conduct "like disreputable private debtor"

Maclean Watson & Co Ltd v International Tin Council (No 2)
Before Lord Justice Kerr, Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Ralph Gibson
[Judgment April 27]

The policy of the law to assist judgment creditors was enshrined in Order 48, rule 1 of the Rules of the Supreme Court but there was an inescapable lacuna in the wording of the order which prevented its application to unincorporated associations.

Section 37(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 conferred powers on the court to grant an injunction, including a mandatory injunction, where it was just and convenient. The court could grant the necessary order for disclosure to render a plaintiff's judgment against the defendant effective.

Having heard some 30 appeals, cross-appeals and applications from actions arising from the collapse of the International Tin Council (ITC), the court, on April 27, 1988, gave judgment in its fourth and last judgment (see The Times April 28, April 29, May 4), observed that the ITC had given insufficient thought as to how it should meet its obligations in an orderly manner bearing in mind its special position in law.

The court, in a reserved judgment, dismissed an appeal against the *ex parte* order made by Mr Justice Hoffmann (The Times September 2, 1987; [1987] 1 WLR 1711).

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made an order to include the assets of the ITC abroad.

On February 19, 1987, Maclean Watson gave a notice of motion seeking an order requiring Mr Peter Stephen Lai, and for some other officer of the ITC, to attend before an officer of the court to be examined on the questions (a) whether any, and if so what, debts were owing to the ITC and (b) whether the ITC had any, and if so what, other property or means of satisfying Maclean Watson's judgment debt, and to produce on such examination all books or documents in his possession relevant to the question at the time and place appointed for his examination. On February 19, Master Gowers dismissed the motion. Maclean Watson appealed.

Mr Justice Millett had dismissed Maclean Watson's appeal against the *ex parte* order made by Mr Justice Hoffmann (The Times September 2, 1987; [1987] 1 WLR 1711).

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assets of the ITC had been refused.

Maclean Watson's objective was to compel the ITC to comply with the judgment which had been entered against it in accordance with the policy of the law to assist judgment creditors. That policy was enshrined in Order 48, rule 1 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

The judge had dealt with the scope of the order in his judgment: (1987) 1 WLR 1711, 1714, 1716. In agreement with the view of the master, he reluctantly concluded that the wording of the order did not permit its application to unincorporated associations. That appeared to be an unfortunate lacuna but he considered that there was no escape from it.

Since the court did not hear Maclean Watson's cross-appeal challenging that conclusion it would assume the correctness of the judge's conclusion on Order 48 for present purposes, without expressing any view about it one way or the other.

One then came to the alternative means whereby Maclean Watson sought to achieve the same objective. On December 18, 1987, Mr Justice Millett summarised the resulting situation and held in favour of Maclean Watson that the court had the necessary statutory jurisdiction.

The ITC did not challenge the judge's exercise of his discretion to make the order. So the court was concerned solely with an issue as to the court's jurisdiction.

For the jurisdiction in the present case there was no need to look further than the statutory powers conferred by section 37(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 and unnecessary to consider whether there was any relevant additional inherent jurisdiction.

Even if it was necessary to categorize the situations in which judgments might be granted, pursuant to section 37(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981, the court was at least two established grounds which satisfied the relevant tests in the present case.

First, the court did not accept Mr Chambers' contention that an attitude of total passivity on

the part of the ITC in relation to Maclean Watson's attempts to enforce its judgment involved no "invasion of a legal or equitable right" of Maclean Watson, to use the phrase of Lord Diplock in *Siskina (Owners of cargo lately laden on board) v Dumas Compania Naviera SA* (1979) AC 210, 256, which he repeated in *British Airways Board v Laker Airways Ltd* (1985) AC 58, 81, and which was also used by Lord Brandon of Oakbrook in *South Carolina Insurance Co v Assurantie Maatschappij "De Zeeven Provincien" NV* (1987) AC 24, 40.

Maclean Watson had an order of the court against the ITC to pay to Maclean Watson the amount of their judgment. The ITC's failure to do so was a failure to comply with an order of the court and a breach of an obligation owed to Maclean Watson. The court's statutory power to grant an injunction if it appeared just and convenient to do so, in this case in mandatory form, was not excluded by any authority.

Second, there was the authority of this court in *A. J. Bekhor & Co Ltd v Bilton* ([1981] QB 923) and other cases that there was an inherent power under what was now section 37(1) of the 1981 Act to make any ancillary order, including an order for discovery, to ensure the effectiveness of any other order made by the court. That applied in the unusual circumstances of the present case.

Since the alternative means of appointing a receiver or of making an order under Order 48 were unavailable, the order for disclosure was necessary to render Maclean Watson's judgment against the ITC effective. The court entirely agreed with Mr Justice Millett's conclusions on this point (at p1716).

That brought to an end this series of appeals. In the light of many of its features, including the nature of the submissions advanced by the ITC in resisting the present application, the court felt that it was necessary to give some reasons for its decision to put the ITC in a position to ensure that its creditors were ultimately paid in full.

Solicitors: Cameron Markby, Elbowe Mitchell.

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In giving judgment in this case Mr Justice Millett had said (at p1713): "The ITC, it must be said, has behaved more like a disreputable private debtor concerned only to hinder and delay his creditors than the responsible international organization that it claims to be."

That was strong language, but wholly justified. Nothing which had happened since had altered that picture; if anything, the passage of time and the passing events had made it worse.

Having heard the appeals consecutively, and expressing themselves as moderately as they could, the court had formed the clear impression that the ITC had given no sufficient thought as to how it should meet its obligations in an orderly manner, having regard to its special position in the law.

Wherever the original responsibility might lie for its collapse in 1985, due to gross mismanagement or worse, the ITC was now insolvent, with debts totalling hundreds of millions of pounds. Its obligations were now to its creditors.

It had successfully resisted the plaintiffs' attempts to procure an orderly distribution of its assets to its creditors by the appointment of a liquidator or a receiver.

The way in which it had again resisted the present proceedings, designed to assist in the enforcement of a debt to which there was no answer whatever, spoke for itself.

In the court's view that conduct was unacceptable to an international organization, to those who constituted it, to those who were responsible for its actions and to those who advised it.

The ITC's present duty was to undo to the greatest possible extent the damage to its creditors by ensuring that its assets were used to pay its debts, without any further prevarication. And its members were, in the court's view, at least morally obliged to put the ITC in a position to ensure that its creditors were ultimately paid in full.

Solicitors: Cameron Markby, Elbowe Mitchell.

For the jurisdiction in the present case there was no need to look further than the statutory powers conferred by section 37(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 and unnecessary to consider whether there was any relevant additional inherent jurisdiction.

Even if it was necessary to categorize the situations in which judgments might be granted, pursuant to section 37(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981, the court was at least two established grounds which satisfied the relevant tests in the present case.

First, the court did not accept Mr Chambers' contention that an attitude of total passivity on

the part of the ITC in relation to Maclean Watson's attempts to enforce its judgment involved no "invasion of a legal or equitable right" of Maclean Watson, to use the phrase of Lord Diplock in *Siskina (Owners of cargo lately laden on board) v Dumas Compania Naviera SA* (1979) AC 210, 256, which he repeated in *British Airways Board v Laker Airways Ltd* (1985) AC 58, 81, and which was also used by Lord Brandon of Oakbrook in *South Carolina Insurance Co v Assurantie Maatschapp*

THE TIMES

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

May 5, 1988

George Tolley, an academic with his eye on industry, predicts a serious shortage of 'brain power' during the next decade

The demand for graduates and others with higher education qualifications is high. It is likely to remain so because employers are more and more needing a workforce with a high level of skills and general intellectual capability. The output from higher education during the next decade will, almost certainly, be insufficient to meet the demand. It is not only a matter of shortage of skills in specific areas such as electronics or manufacturing systems engineering. The country will be short of brain power in general.

Increasing the participation rate in higher education from 14 per cent in 1986 to 18.5 per cent in the late 1990s will do no more than maintain current numbers in higher education. Unless attitudes towards higher education change and unless selection procedures for higher education change also, we shall not even achieve that modest increase in participation.

There are two main problems. Firstly, we shall not have an adequately educated society unless the need for more higher education is accepted and becomes a part of our culture. It is not so at the moment. Expectations of need and opportunity for higher education are too low. Secondly, the selection methods of universities, dominated as they are by the dependence upon A level scores, must be changed so that wider access can be achieved.

A recent report from Industry Matters has looked at these issues.

It is provocatively titled *Raising the Standard*. While acknowledging the rhetoric in favour of widening access to higher education, the report concludes that not much will change unless two things happen. The dominance of A level scores in the selection process must be broken. And the skills and qualities that make for effective graduate performance in employment must figure more prominently in the selection of entrants for higher education and of graduates for employment.

The report is blunt in its comment upon present inadequacy. "A level dominance has served its purpose for what must now be seen as the anachronism of a higher education system that nurtures a thin stream of excellence. The nation now needs a broad highway of competence in which excellence will have its part, but not at the best being the enemy of the good."

It fears the exacerbation of a "league table mentality", in which the quality of universities and polytechnics and of departments and courses is judged and expressed in terms of the A level scores of entrants, rather than in the quality of the graduates. It sees a higher education system in which the role of the customer, whether individual student or employer, is consistently underplayed.

Unless access to higher education is widened, employers and the country as a whole will be denied the supply of skills and



competence necessary for survival in a competitive world.

Employers, for their part, have a responsibility to encourage wider access, if only to ensure the survival of their organizations. They should be giving greater recognition to vocational qualifications, alongside A levels, as evidence of general educational attainment. They should be influencing those professional bodies who, in insisting upon graduate entry, also narrow down entry in favour of the standard, conventional entrant to universities (one who goes with A levels straight from school). They should be sharing their expertise in the selection of graduates for employment with admissions tutors who select entrants for higher education.

Unless these things happen on a significant scale, then too many graduates will continue to be

Higher education must be part of our culture, for industry's sake

produced in a mould that fits them for academic progression, rather than for a wider, more fulfilling and more productive role.

Wherever universities and polytechnics have deliberately aimed to take more mature and non-standard entrants - that is, those without conventional A levels - things have become clear. Firstly, that there is a substantial demand for access to be widened. Secondly, that the quality of those seeking non-standard entry is high. They do very well by comparison with standard entrants. There remains a pool of ability to be tapped. But opening up access to higher education is not just a matter of opening one or two doors a little wider in order to let more people into a room that does not change its furniture.

A wider clientele calls for changes in teaching and learning methods. Acceptance of students from a wider background, many of them mature and with varied experience, emphasizes the need

for higher education to help graduates acquire the qualities that will be both personally fulfilling for them and satisfying and productive in employment.

Subject knowledge alone, however scarce in supply, is not nearly enough. The qualities and skills that the graduate must be able to deploy have to do with decision-making, problem-solving, communication, the ability to work in and to lead a team, the ability to learn and to adapt. And, increasingly, graduates must be enterprising, which means putting all these qualities and skills to work, with personal drive to achieve personal goals in situations of considered risk.

In too much of higher education these things are considered to be by-products or peripheral, or they are not considered at all. Employers must ensure that they are considered as an essential part of the central concern of universities and polytechnics with qual-

ity. For the need to widen access and to emphasize the broader qualities of mind and skill of graduates has nothing to do with undermining academic excellence. A better educated society should be a better-achieving society in which academic excellence is secure.

If selection procedures for jobs in industry denied entry to, or made it very difficult for, able people of quality, and at the same time resulted in a mismatch between skills and qualities required and those offered, then employers would be rightly concerned and would do something about it.

But this is the situation in higher education. Admissions procedures in universities and polytechnics should be: valid and reliable, perceived as being fair, readily understood, responsive to changing need, flexible, cost-effective, and be consistent with a broad, balanced and relevant school curriculum. Existing proce-

dures do not satisfy these requirements. That they do not do so must be a matter of concern within education. And it must concern employers also, for any shortcomings affect the most vital raw material for employment and for the country as a whole - its highly qualified.

The Great National Autumn Handicap, which follows hard upon the publication of A level results, has become an annual spectacle. It clearly demonstrates a creaking system, a system that is rejecting more than it is selecting, and which gives a spurious proxy for quality to A level points as though these were an adequate measure of a person's quality of mind.

The system is based upon assumptions and procedures that deny the wider access that is needed in the names both of good sense and equity. For it is foolish and short-sighted to live in a past in which higher education was restricted to the privileged few. And it is inequitable to deny access to those of evident ability. It is a system that cannot meet the needs of the country for an adequate supply of educated manpower.

Dr George Tolley was formerly principal of Sheffield City Polytechnic and is chairman of the Education-Industry Forum of Industry Matters, the successor to Industry Year 1986.

Raising the Standard is available from Industry Matters, 8 John Adam Street, London WC2N 6EZ.

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01-481 4481

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

01-481 4481

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The LEK Partnership is a leading firm of strategy consultants with offices in London, Boston, Los Angeles and Sydney. The firm was founded in 1983 in the UK and has grown rapidly to become one of the leading strategy consulting firms in Britain.

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MACHINE TOOL TRADES ASSOCIATION

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The industry occupies a central place in the engineering and manufacturing industries so the Association is in a position to offer considerable benefits to its 300 plus members.

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The office is in Central London. Age preferred: 35-45.

John Howarth, Director General at MTTA, 62 Baywater Road, London W2 3PS.

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Closing date: 20 May 1988

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We are currently holding a number of positions for Foreign Exchange Dealers. Our clients Major International Banks are offering rewarding salaries.

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If you are interested in discussing any of the above openings please call Tim Giles or Marlene Mack.

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If your career is at a dead end and you are considering a change of direction this could be the opportunity you are looking for.

As one of the country's foremost financial management groups we can enable you, with the help of our reputation and resources to build your own business as a Financial Management Consultant.

Excellent training, first class administrative support and one of the widest, most

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Neil Macdonald - London & Home Counties: 01 631 1818
Graham Jowett - Bristol & South West: 0272 732779
Paul Forster - Cheshire & North Wales: 0244 29521
Stuart Jarman - Manchester & Stoke: 061 873 7700
John Hinchley - Birmingham & Midlands: 021 631 4059
Peter Cumming - Southern Counties: 0775 277231
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STOCK/PURCHASING MANAGER

Urgently required for the purchasing department of this large prestigious British Company. Responsible for establishing new purchasing procedures, tendering for supplies, negotiating terms and conditions with suppliers. Developing operational policies and procedures. Proven management level experience of stockholding, stock and stores control essential. Must have professional account and experience. Aged 25-40. Excellent company benefits. Salary up to £22,000 p.a.

Please contact: Olga immediately

ON 499 5881

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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

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CJA

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Telex No. 887374 Fax No. 01-256 8501

Opportunity to become Managing Director in 6-18 months

**GENERAL MANAGER
- BOARD APPOINTMENT**

LIVERPOOL

BIBBY TECHNICAL SERVICES - A MEMBER OF THE BIBBY LINE GROUP £30,000-£35,000 + BONUS

Our client owns companies who provide contract professional and technical personnel and engineering design services, and are looking to appoint a General Manager to assist line management in the development of existing businesses and to plan and execute an expansion programme through acquisition. Applications are invited from qualified Accountants, aged 35-45, preferably who have worked at senior management level in either an engineering or services environment. Reporting will be to the Bibby Line Group Managing Director and the successful candidate must be able to demonstrate the necessary leadership qualities to generate a major increase in the size of the division. Domestic and European travel will be necessary. Initial salary negotiable, £30,000-£35,000 + bonus scheme, car, BUPA, contributory pension scheme, assistance with relocation expenses, if necessary. Applications in strict confidence under reference GMB20931/TT, will be forwarded unopened to our client: CJA

A career appointment offering significant scope for future development

CJA**HEAD OF PERSONNEL**

CITY

PROGRESSIVE AND EXPANDING MERCHANT BANK - MEMBER OF BROADLY BASED MAJOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP £28,000-£32,000 + BENEFITS

This appointment calls for candidates of graduate calibre, I.P.M. qualified and aged 30-40. The candidate will have had a progressive and wide-ranging personnel career with at least 5 years financial sector experience. This will include not less than 2 years in a management role and will ideally have been gained within a medium sized investment/merchant banking organisation. A full understanding of present day practices, including computer applications and relevant legislation is necessary. Reporting to the Director of Administration and heading a small team, the successful candidate will be responsible for all aspects of the personnel function. A prime task will be the development of systems, tailored to meet both the needs of the individual and the demands of this growing organisation. The ability to win respect and confidence at all levels is essential together with communication skills, imagination and a capacity for problem solving. Initial salary negotiable £28,000-£32,000, discretionary bonus, car, non-contributory pension, life assurance, mortgage subsidy and free family medical cover. Applications in strict confidence under reference HOP4596/TT to the Managing Director: CJA

Excellent prospects exist in this expanding organisation.

CJA**INVESTMENT ANALYST/
ASSISTANT FUND MANAGER**

LONDON W.C.2

PRIVATE INVESTMENT COMPANY

c.£30,000 + BONUS

Our client is a small private investment company managing listed investment companies. Owing to expansion they now seek an Assistant to work closely with the Fund Managers. The emphasis will be on researching and generating investment ideas, particularly in the U.K. and U.S. markets and developing expertise in Continental Europe, the Far East and Australia. Applicants should be educated to degree level, with a demonstrable track record as an investment analyst (minimum 4 years' experience) and a sense of market timing. There will be considerable autonomy and responsibility, contact with institutional shareholders and day to day contact with the executive directors. Our client has an open mind on age, but presence and a polished manner are essential. Initial remuneration is negotiable according to age and experience c.£30,000 + bonus and good company benefits. Applications in strict confidence under reference AFM4597/TT to the Managing Director: CJA

An exciting opportunity to join a major multi-national group with career advancement prospects second to none

ALPS**FINANCIAL CONTROLLER**

MIDDLESEX

MANUFACTURER OF SENSORS AND INSTRUMENTATION - DIVISION OF A MULTI-NATIONAL GROUP £23,000-£26,000 + CAR

As a result of an internal promotion, our clients need a Financial Controller for a division manufacturing sensors for the aerospace market. We invite applications from Accountants (CIMA, ACA, ACCA), aged 26-30, with at least 2 years PQ experience in industry. As a member of the Management team, the Financial Controller will play a vital role in the running of this successful business and, assisted by a small team, will have total responsibility for finance and data processing functions, using an IBM System 38. The appointed candidate will be ambitious, self-motivated, and have strong communication skills. Initial salary negotiable £23,000-£26,000 + fully-expensed car, company benefits and assistance with relocation expenses, if necessary. Applications, in strict confidence by telephone on 01-588 3114 or under reference EC158/TT, to the Managing Director: ALPS

3 LONDON WALL BUILDINGS, LONDON WALL, LONDON EC2M 5PU. TELEPHONE 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576. TELEX: 887374, FAX: 01-256 8501.

ORGANISATIONS REQUIRING ASSISTANCE ON RECRUITMENT: PLEASE TELEPHONE 01-622 7639

**INSURANCE
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Applications are invited for the post of Assistant Company Secretary (Insurance).

Remploy is an expanding Company providing employment for 5000 disabled people at 94 factories and 2 warehouses throughout Great Britain. We have over 50 businesses and can offer a challenging position for an experienced insurance administrator.

The successful applicant will be responsible for the Company's insurance portfolio and claims, and therefore, will have a very busy and varied workload.

The ideal candidate will be either qualified or studying for the Chartered Insurance Institute diploma or be a recently qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries. Age range 25-35.

We offer an excellent benefits package including Company pension scheme, 25 days annual holiday, 36 1/4 hour week, and subsidised staff restaurant.

Please send your c.v. or write/telephone for an application form to:

Remploy

Personnel Officer,
Remploy Ltd.,
415 Edgware Rd.,
Cricklewood,
London NW2 6LF.
Tel: 01-452 8020
extn. 4307.

Remploy is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

**The Wellcome Trust
Investment
Clerk**

The Wellcome Trust invites written applications for the position of Investment Clerk/Typist in the Finance Department.

Duties will be varied and include monitoring investment transactions on a P.C. and assisting with the day-to-day operations of the Department.

Salary up to £10,500 (a.a.e.), plus L.V.s, non-contributory pension scheme, medical costs insurance and 23 days' annual leave. Non-smoker preferred.

Applicants should send their c.v., plus the names and addresses of two referees to Sylvia Ling, The Wellcome Trust, 1 Park Square West, London NW1 4LJ to be received within ten working days of the appearance of this advertisement.

NO AGENCIES

**YOUNG MANAGER TO
ASSIST MD**

Required by fast growing national business consultancy based in Buckinghamshire. This new position is an opportunity for a young manager to gain wide experience of every aspect of the business and offers the prospect of rapid personal and career development.

The ideal candidate will be a graduate with 3/5 years experience and will have completed a management training programme. Good knowledge of computers and database management is essential. A background in marketing and/or finance would be an advantage.

Excellent salary by negotiation.

Please reply, enclosing CV to:

Clive Morton,
Morton Hodson & Co. Ltd.,
20, Park Street,
Princes Risborough, Bucks HP17 9AH.

**MORTON
HODSON****AREA SALES EXECUTIVE**

£10,500 + Car

South East: Multi National Company

Age 22-28 Educated Up to 'A' Level Standard (with a Technical Bias.) Selling Building Systems, to Industry, Commerce & Local Authorities, exposure to a selling environment would be an advantage, although full training is provided. Excellent company backup + full benefits package.

For more details & interview time, ring

PREMIERE EMPLOYMENT 0442 231370**RESEARCH EXECUTIVE****Executive Search & Management Consultancy**

c.£15,000-£18,000+bonus

25-32 years
Join a successful and expanding Consultancy specialising in Executive Search. This is a dual role encompassing overall responsibility for research in our Property & Construction sector, coupled with acting as assistant to the Partner managing senior assignments for corporate PLCs.

Responsibilities include:-
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• Assignment planning related to company/candidate research and selection.
• Implementation of telephone research to potential candidates.
• Assisting the partner with every aspect of his varied assignments.

The ideal candidate will be a graduate, with a minimum of 2/3 years' experience in either • marketing, • research, • PR, or personnel and excellent communication skills, a strong personality, and be very well-organised in detailed administration. The ability to write reports with clarity is important. A knowledge of the property and construction industry is essential but not essential.

Telephone or write with your full CV to:

M Ruth Shelley, Director, on 01-383 2051
Morton Associates (Consultants) Ltd,
79 Grafton Way, London, W1P 5LE.

**CONSULTANCY
IN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
MANAGEMENT**

YOU are in your late twenties or early thirties, in the fast stream of your organisation - either a generalist or a member of a professional group - with demonstrable skills and experience in addressing new management initiatives, and a record of achievement in problem solving under pressure. You have a thorough understanding of central government, and of the managerial issues currently facing it. With your communications skills you are effective at persuading people to implement change.

WE are a leading firm of management consultants, providing the full range of consultancy services to clients in every sector of the economy. For a decade we have been helping central government think through, develop and implement a programme of change in the way it manages itself. The

demand for our services is continuing to grow, and we need professional men and women of the highest quality to enable us to meet it.

WE offer involvement at the leading edge of the process of change. We provide implementation support, both in carrying through changes planned by government departments, and in carrying out our own recommendations once they have been accepted.

Our remuneration package includes a competitive salary and a car, but the main attraction to you is likely to be the combination of job satisfaction and the prospect of rapid progression. If you would like to hear more about the consultancy opportunities we can offer you, please write to Barrie Collins quoting reference P/MA/T and tell him what you can offer us.

KPMG**Peat Marwick McLintock****Management Consultants**

1 Puddle Dock, Blackfriars, London EC4V 3PD

ITT

PUBLITEC, a subsidiary of the multinational corporation ITT, has recently set up an International Research Development and Support Centre in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. We currently have an opening for a

ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN M/F

The position reports to the Information Specialist and will be responsible for purchasing and circulation of books and periodicals for the company's small technical library. Other functions will include reference-work, cataloguing and indexing of company documents. Ideally the successful candidate will have basic library education, word processing and DBMS-skills.

Two years experience in a service oriented company would be an asset. Foreign language skills are a distinct advantage.

ITT Publitec offers a professional and challenging working environment along with a very competitive compensation package. Applications together with c.v. in English should be sent asap to Jennifer Schubert, Personnel Manager, ITT Publitec, P.O. Box 12481, 1100 AL Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

**APPOINTMENT OF
DEPUTY SECRETARY****TERRITORIAL AUXILIARY & VOLUNTEER
RESERVE ASSOCIATION FOR GREATER LONDON**

Applications are invited from 'serving or retired officers of the regular services' who have had the equivalent of Grade 1 Staff experience for the appointment of Deputy Secretary TAVRA for Greater London which becomes vacant on or about 1 August 1988.

In addition to being Deputy Secretary, with the responsibilities for the peacetime administration of the Reserve Forces in London, the appointment includes special responsibilities for Cadet Forces and the management of a large property portfolio. Whilst a wide knowledge of service procedures is essential to the appointment the successful applicant must also be able to cope with the more direct commercial and financial responsibilities involved in the Association system of operation.

The successful applicant will be required to pass a medical and contribute to the Association Pension Fund. He will be expected to live within a reasonable distance of London.

Salary level £12,196 rising to £15,263 by 5 annual increments, incl London Weighting and non-pensionable addition. A car is provided.

Applications should be submitted with CV to:-

Secretary
TAVRA for Greater London
Duke of York's Headquarters
Kings Road
London SW3 4RY

by 20 MAY 1988, names of two referees to be included.

SALES ENGINEER**BRAZING PRODUCTS**

Lucas-Milhaupt Inc., a subsidiary of Handy & Harman, a U.S. Corporation, and one of the world's leading Producers of Brazing alloys in various forms, wish to appoint a Sales Engineer to cover the whole of the U.K. making technical sales to a wide variety of industrial concerns.

This is a newly created appointment, and the successful candidate would be expected to have an in depth knowledge of the U.K. market for Brazing products.

Operating from home the candidate would be given a great deal of autonomy to develop the market, after a training period at the U.S. factory.

We are looking for not only an experienced person, but someone who is a self starter and can work on their own. The long term prospects could be excellent for the right person.

Salary, etc be negotiation.

Please write in the first instance to (including full c.v.):

The Managing Director
Rigby-Maryland (Stainless) Limited
Union Road
Liversedge
West Yorkshire
WF15 7JU

**DIRECTOR REQUIRED
FOR CHARITY**

Young, enthusiastic Director for new charity required. Must have experience of all aspects of charity work as well as excellent contacts within the media and the financial community.

Should have proven leadership qualities together with the ability to work with a small team on a variety of projects.

Salary commensurate with experience. Please send CV in confidence to

Box No: D34.

**THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW
REPORTING FOR ENGLAND & WALES****SECRETARY**

The Council of Law Reporting, a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity, is seeking a Chartered Accountant to replace the present Secretary who is retiring shortly. The Council publishes the Law Reports, the Weekly Law Reports and the Industrial Cases Reports. The successful candidate will control a small office and warehouse, and will be responsible for the day to day management of the Council's affairs including the accounting function, subscription recording and collection, printing and distribution of publications and liaising with the editorial department. A working knowledge of microcomputers is essential, and an interest in OCR techniques and the electronic transfer of data to the printers would be an advantage.

The post carries a good salary with the benefit of a non-contributory pension and life assurance scheme. Please write in the first instance enclosing a CV to

R H PETTIT FCA,
The Incorporated Council of Law
Reporting for England & Wales,
3 Stone Buildings,
Lincoln's Inn,
London WC2A 3XN

**HERE IS AN INVITATION INTO
THE PROMOTIONS INDUSTRY FOR
EXPERIENCED TELEMARKETERS**

We are looking for sharp, bright, creative people with good communications skills who are looking for a challenge.

This is a market development post as the main responsibility of the post is setting appointments for the sales team of this successful international organisation. This will be done through the present client database and through your own initiative. As this post is new it will require a self starter who can take a responsible stance.

The salary is negotiable for the right person and there are additional pension and medical benefits. This is an immediate vacancy, so please call Angela from 9.30am to 7pm Monday to Friday

01-328-5513

PROGRAMMES RECRUITMENT

**RECRUITMENT
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Equinox Legal well established in the secretarial recruitment field are looking for an experienced consultant to join a small and friendly team. Ideally you will have a minimum of 6 months experience in any field of secretarial recruitment and be happy to handle legal staff. £10,000 pa will be your basic and with a generous commission scheme your annual salary should reach around £20,000. To arrange and immediate interview call Gary Beerman on 01 831 8828.

01-481 4481

BANKING & ACCOUNTANCY

01-481 4481

FINANCIAL ANALYST - LEISURE**AGE 26-30****Central London****c £25K + Car**

Having recently commenced the implementation of their new corporate strategy, our client, a leading force in the leisure industry, is undergoing rapid growth. An exceptional opportunity has been created within the key area of corporate finance.

Prime responsibilities will include the analysis of financial information relating to investment, acquisitions, budgeting and current performance. The role will also involve the review and analysis of both short and long term financial plans.

The successful candidate will be a graduate qualified accountant or MBA with 2 years experience gained within a 'blue-chip' organisation. As it is envisaged that progression within the role will lead rapidly to a line management position, it is essential to be able to communicate effectively within a challenging environment.

Interested candidates should write to Mark Gilbert ACA at the address below, or call him for further information on 01-437 0464.

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RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Queens House 1 Leicester Place Leicester Square London WC2H 7BP

Telephone: 01-437 0464

A More Direct Route to Real Responsibility**DIVISIONAL ACCOUNTANT****LONDON****c. £18,500**

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Reporting to the Divisional Manager, you will be charged with the task of managing and motivating a small team who will ensure that the accounting function operates to the highest standards.

Your specific duties will encompass the management and control of customer billing, invoicing and credit control as well as the supervision of internal charging systems. Accurate reporting in such a fast-moving business is essential and will be your responsibility, covering all aspects of the department including cash flow and profit and loss accounting. It's a department which benefits from the latest technologies requiring solid computerised accounting experience to maintain both security and integrity.

A qualified accountant with a wide commercial background, you must be able to demonstrate sound financial control experience and a particular expertise in inventory management. Highly motivated, your excellent communication skills will enable you to work efficiently in a team environment which will in turn, highlight your readiness for further advancement.

In addition to the salary c. £18,500, you can look forward to a comprehensive range of major company benefits and a prosperous future with one of the UK's leading names.

Please send your full cv to: Jo Smith, Assistant Personnel Manager, Telephone Marketing Services, 5th Floor, Middlegate, Whitefriars, Lewins Mead, Bristol BS1 2LW.

British TELECOM**Venture Capital London SW1****Level III/Finalist ACCA/CIMA****To £18,000 + Study**

Joining the Venture Capital team of this major UK Industrial Group, you will receive training to enable you to take responsibility for major capital investment decisions and performance appraisals.

Initially working alongside the investment manager, you will be involved in venture analysis, systems development and project investigations.

Superb benefits include 2 weeks study leave and all fees, 6 weeks holiday and free travel.

You should be aged under 28, with at least 2 years accounts experience.

Please contact JUDITH AYRES ref: 5417 on 01-404 3155, at ALDERWICK PEACHELL & PARTNERS, (Financial Recruitment Consultants), 125 High Holborn, London WC1V 6QA.

Alderwick Peachell & PARTNERS LTD**COMPANY ACCOUNTANT LONDON E2**

Salary in the region of £18,000 P.A. + pension of other benefits.
A privately-run retail group of 33 branches requires to strengthen its young head office management team.
Successful applicants will be:
- Experienced in computer-based accounting, able and willing to work with and supervise staff.
- Keen to assist with the development of management systems within a fast expanding retail organisation.
Apply in confidence to:

B. Lester F.C.A.
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70-72 Kingsland Road
London E2 8CP
Tel: 01-739 2021

ACCOUNTANT

Required for an expanding import and distribution company.

The successful candidate could be either part or fully qualified, the most important factor being a solid background knowledge of Company Accounts, familiarity with Computerised accounting and flexibility to operate in a very dynamic environment.

Salary Negotiable.
Please apply with C.V. to
P.O. Box 584 - London SE1 1SJ

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Branch Managers for their Watford, Ilford and Feltham Offices.
Prospective applicants must have good Management Skills.
Experience in the alarm industry an advantage.

Competitive salary, company car and Excellent career prospects.

We also require Office co-ordinators for the above including Oxtford.

Due to our rapid expansion, applications are also invited for

SURVEYORS AND INSTALLATION INSPECTORS

EXPERIENCED ALARM INSTALLATION/SERVICE ENGINEERS.
commercial and domestic.

good rates of pay, overtime and commission.
company vehicle, and all major tools supplied.
Excellent prospects.

For further information contact - Austin Turner on 890 7777 x 203

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We are seeking an experienced toolmaker/modeller to join our Research and Development department, manufacturing small precision components and assemblies. This is a new position within an expanding department and requires a person with considerable experience and flair for new ideas. Applicants should have completed a recognised engineering apprenticeship, have experience with special purpose machinery and pneumatic circuits and controls.

Please apply with full curriculum vitae to:

Mrs J. Anderson, Personnel Manager,
Madame Tussaud's Ltd, Marylebone Road, London NW1 5LR
Telephone 01 935 8881

McCOLL

Large design company based in the West End require two part-qualified accountants.

ACCOUNTANT

Self-starter required for subsidiary company - responsible for all financial and management accounting, from petty cash to preparation of reports to board. Salary to £15,000 per annum.

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Responsible for project accounting for the Architectural Division - project billing, cost monitoring, assisting with project management, etc. Salary to £15,000 per annum.

Both these positions require an ability to use micro computers, to deal with people at all levels and to respond to tight deadlines.

Please send full cv to:
Mr Allen Withington
Chief Accountant
McColl Limited
64 Wigmore Street
London W1H 9DJ

COMPANY ACCOUNTANT

SUHNER ELECTRONICS Ltd is the UK subsidiary of a Swiss Parent selling high quality electronic components. Turnover is around £4M with 50 employees.

In addition to the normal accounting functions the accounts department runs a Data General system serving sales, distribution and accounts. Although a very modern system an upgrade is envisaged and the job holder will be a prime mover in achieving this. The task is interesting and includes pensions, taxation, insurance and currency buying. As a member of a young management team you will be asked to contribute to many aspects of the successful running of the company.

You may be able to show expertise in several of the areas described or may be stepping into industry from a good training in professional practice. You must then be able to demonstrate the ability to quickly assimilate the skills needed.

Occasional travel to Switzerland will be needed. An attractive package in excess of £18K is envisaged. Please send a comprehensive CV showing salary progression and supplemented by specific reference to the skills needed to:

The Managing Director
Suhner Electronics Ltd
Telford Road
Bicester, Oxon OX6 0LA

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME**PERSONAL ASSISTANT BECOMES AREA MANAGER ?**

- Are you interested in leading a new business with a projected turnover of 1 million pounds in the first year?
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- Will you accept a basic salary of £15,000?
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If you can positively answer the above questions then call 0836 519462 for further details of send your CV to
Annette Williams,
39 Maes Rhedyn, Baglan,
Port Harbour,
SA12 8TY.

PILLARS OF STRENGTH IN SE1 £13 - 15,000

The astounding success of this financially orientated publishing/conference organising company has created three vacancies.

The MD and his deputy need a senior PA and second secretary to run their lives. Minimum skills of 100/70 plus a European language are pre-requisites for positions offering maximum involvement in a pressurised, fast-moving environment.

We also require an Assistant for the Administration and Marketing Director. Career prospects await candidates with excellent secretarial skills and previous experience of personnel and office administration or computerisation, installation and training.

If you are aged 30+ with a professional and dedicated approach to your work please telephone 089 3535.

Crone Corkill**RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS****ACCOUNTANT/ BURSAR**

Independent Schools Management, a new and rapidly expanding company specialising in the management of independent schools, requires an accountant/bursar. Previous experience in the field of education not essential.

Salary negotiable - c. £20,000

ISM

For further information contact:
Independent Schools Management
111-113, 85-87, JERMYN STREET
LONDON SW1Y 6JD TEL 01-930 0431

SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL AND AFRICAN STUDIES (University of London)

Malet Street,
London, WC1E 7HP

SECRETARY / ASSISTANT

to Assistant Secretary in busy and expanding University School. Duties include general secretarial work, purchasing and a wide range of contacts with suppliers and contractors. Applicants must be numerate and be willing and able to learn micro computing skills. Short-hand and/or audio necessary, and previous micro computing experience would be useful. Salary c. £5,000 p.a. Further particulars and application form from Mr. J.M.M. Dixon, tel. 837 2288, ext. 2237. (No agencies).

RECEPTIONIST/ TELEPHONIST

Required for prestigious charity. Typing essential. Particular suitable for retired or mature person.

Reply in writing to:-
The Director General,
Canning House,
2 Belgrave Square,
London SW1X 8PL,
01 235 2263.

GERMAN SPEAKING SEC

Small friendly business office of the co. req. fluent German speaking sec. WP skills ess. Opportunity to learn financial aspects of business.
When App
01-437 1101

IMPERIAL COLLEGE (UNIVERSITY OF LONDON) SOUTH KENSINGTON (Up to £10,414) SECRETARY

Required for Professor who is head of active research group with overseas contacts and responsible for organisation of undergraduate teaching programme. Successful candidate will be required to use initiative; duties will include preparation of research documentation, monitoring expenditure in addition to smooth running of busy office. Ability/willingness to use word processor essential. Own modern office, generous holidays, sports centre with pool on campus.

Phone or write with c.v. and name of at least one referee to Mrs Kim Dean, Admin Officer, Mechanical Engineering Department, Imperial College, London SW7 2BX. Phone 01-589 5111 Extension 6105.

BOREHAMWOOD - OFFICE MANAGER C.£14,000

Expanding Islington-based software house relocating shortly to Borehamwood requires office manager to take charge of accounts/purchasing/building administration. Book-keeping & credit control experience ess. A. Levels Non Smoker CV please to

Cathy Shindler MCS Ltd
1 Noel Road London N1 8HQ

MARKET RESEARCH COMPANY SECRETARY TO DIRECTOR £10,000 PLUS BENEFITS

Small friendly Islington based company req. young lively Admin Secretary with WP Wordstar experience (will train) to work for one of our Directors. Please call Michelle on 01 381 5291 or write with C.V. to:
Barnes Research Partners Ltd,
Greyton House, 498-504 Fulham Road,
London SW6 5NH

CANADIAN SECURITIES COMPANY IN CITY OF LONDON

We are looking for a bright and organised office/all-rounder with good secretarial skills. Common sense and a sense of humour is essential as is the ability to work under pressure in a small but busy office. Aged 23 minimum. Salary £10,500 negotiable. Apply with CV to:

Marguerite Beckett,
Yorkton Securities Inc, Suite 403,
Salisbury House, Finsbury Circus,
London EC2M 5RQ.
Telephone 01 920 0011.

No Agencies.

MAYFAIR PROPERTY COMPANY

Requires two audio Secretaries/PAs for Directors' and Senior Executives. Commencing salary £12,000 plus.

Please phone 01 629 9600 for immediate interview.
(No Agencies)

LOOKING GOOD?

£10,000 (neg) in New Bridge.

We currently have 3 secretary/pa vacancies with one of the World's leading Cosmetic/Skincare companies. If you have good shorthand, a confident personality and strong organisational skills with ideally a Sales/Marketing background, contact SFR immediately.

STELLA FISHER
01-536 6644

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£8,000 College Leavers Hot off the press. Exclusive Mayfair Property Company only offers a "Quality or Flare" to join them for champagne to help celebrate the opening of their new office. If you are lively spoken and well presented with a post secondary educational background and have the confidence to deal with senior sales staff, we will be very pleased to hear from you. Audio/Copy typing skills required.

STELLA FISHER
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TO £11,000 (neg Aug 88). International Computer Software Company based near Blackham road is well-known, successful and expanding. We are looking for a young, energetic, high standards, good shorthand, audio and WP knowledge combined with an interest in computers and figurative work.

STELLA FISHER
01-536 6644

PR PA

Don't work for us - work with us!

Young, growing PR consultancy with blue chip clients seeks PA to MD plus team. Strong organisational and administrative skills essential.

Ring Alan Murray on 01 938 2222 now.
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The Masters champion explains why his putting is envied by all golfers



Mastery: Lyle (left) was off balance in 1985; the Nicklaus crouch (centre) and Lyle now, on his soles, elbow out, shoulders lined (Photos: Phil Sheldon)

Nicklaus helped Lyle stroke

By Mitchell Platts
Golf Correspondent

Sandy Lyle returns to action in the United States today with a putting record that is the envy of every player in the world.

He has already this season won \$603,000 (about £322,000), with the assistance of his victories in the US Masters, Phoenix Open and Greater Greensboro Open, and he will earn another \$240,000 if he captures the Panasonic Las Vegas International. If he succeeds then Lyle is virtually assured of becoming the first winner of more than \$1 million in a season in official US Tour money because the leading money-winner will receive a minimum \$207,000 bonus from Nabisco.

Lyle has played from tee to green this year as consistently as he has done in his 11 years as a professional.

Even so he would be the first to acknowledge that his touch on the greens has never been more authoritative. He is leading the putting statistics on the American circuit with 1.7 putts per hole this season.

The clue to his improved putting stems from playing 36 holes with Jack Nicklaus during the Doral Open this year. In the never-ceasing search for an Utopian putting stroke, Lyle elected to utilize the Nicklaus routine.

"I was seeking a different feel or a different action," Lyle said. "I wanted to be more comfortable over the ball and, most importantly, I wanted to be more consistent on the greens. I was very impressed with the way Jack putted. I had always tended to stand very upright putting and used my arms. This created a very short follow-through. After watching Jack, I lowered my right elbow, almost hori-

zontally, and found my weight on the soles of my feet. In the past it was almost impossible to push me over with one finger. I was so badly balanced.

"Now I'm very firm. I'm putting with my shoulders rather than my arms, or my hands, and I'm getting a longer extension with this pendulum-type action. My follow-through is some six inches longer which means that I'm getting a better roll on the ball. 'There have been the odd occasion over the years when I've putted well but it was more by luck than making it work. Now I'm making it work, rather than waiting for it to happen, and, as Greg Norman said after the Masters, the hole does begin to look like a 44-gallon drum."

Putting, the game within a game, is a daunting demon, no matter how good the player, and even Severiano

Ballesteros and Tom Watson have become victims on the greens in recent times. Ballesteros has, though it should be said quietly, yet to yip a putt; Watson's game is still immaculate yet his touch with the putter appears to have deserted him since he was beaten by Ballesteros in that pulsating finish to the Open Championship at St Andrews in 1984. For instance, Watson took four putts — three from inside of three feet — at a critical moment in last month's Masters.

Sam Torrance is the latest professional to admit to the affliction which, as Henry Longhurst wrote, leaves you "totally incapable of moving a piece of ironmongery to and fro without giving at the critical moment a convulsive twitch." Bobby Jones observed that "the ball apparently vanishes from sight just as the club is about to strike it."

SPORTS LETTERS

'Pirates' should join a club

From Mr John Legge

Sir, I sympathize greatly with Mr Haylock, who wrote (April 28) of his frustration in getting a legitimate entry for the London Marathon and ran anyway only to be diverted off the course 100 metres from the finish. However, any system where 40,000 people are going to be turned down is sure to have its vehement critics whatever the criteria used for selection, a line has to be drawn somewhere and congestion is already stretching the organizers to the limit.

Mr Haylock is obviously fit if he can manage 26 miles (and somewhat more apparently) but does not belong to a running club. What a pity. Running

clubs are for Joe Public, their only requirement is an interest in running and a willingness to pay the usually very nominal yearly subscription.

If Mr Haylock, or any other runner, frustrated or otherwise, will write to me, I will send a list of local clubs and where and when they meet. You may never run the London Marathon but there is still plenty of enjoyment to be had running with your neighbours and friends.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN LEGGE (Chairman of Council, Road Runners Club),
21 Station Road,
Digswell,
Hertfordshire.

Generous gesture

From Mr James D. Keir, QC

Sir, The report (April 25) marking Andy Ripley's retirement from first-class rugby included a graceful reference to his participation in this club's seven-a-side tournament on Sunday, after travelling to Cardiff on Saturday for his last first-class 15-a-side game.

I would like to say how much this club appreciated this generous gesture by him, and by Colleagues, the side in which he played, to support our tournament, which we have run for 31 years to help blind and handicapped children at the

Sunshine Home at East Grinstead.

I would also like to place on record our pleasure that Colleagues won our tournament and so, with Andy Ripley's help, put a new name on the trophy which Lady Astor of Hever presented for our tournament and which she handed to the winners, as she has on nearly all the years in which it has been staged.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES D. KEIR (President, East Grinstead RFC),
The Crossways,
1 High Street,
Dorsetland,
Sussex.

Willing to help

From Mr H. S. State

Sir, I was very interested to read of the efforts of a new consortium to raise money on charity race days (April 29).

About four years ago I phoned and spoke to the manager of the Cheltenham racecourse with a view to collecting for the Injured Jockeys' Fund during the meeting. He replied that as they already have a charity race day later in the year he did not think that it was necessary. My own opinion is that as the fences are

higher than normal, more jockeys are liable to be injured.

The manager may well think that having a Pearly King and Queen at the meeting might lower the tone. However, the jockeys should know that there are quite a lot of people willing to help in this reasonably dangerous sport because we realize that only a few can retire in comfort.

Sincerely,
HAROLD STATE (Pearly King of Battersea),
7 Ariel Lodge Road,
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire.

Trophies are clubs' lifeline

From Mr Paul Noble

Sir, While it is sad that the Football League's centenary festivities have not lived up to expectations I feel the attack by Mr G. Dickson (April 21) on the League (Littlewoods) Cup, Simod Cup and Sherpa Van Trophy is somewhat unmerited.

The League Cup is a major trophy and although only 28 years old, it is vigorously contested by all 92 League clubs.

As for the Freight Rover/Sherpa Van Trophy, my home town club, Wolverhampton Wanderers, have benefited greatly this season. On May 29 we will be at Wembley for the final against Burnley (the traditionalists note, two founder members). I predict a gate over 65,000 and with the valuable financial benefit plus the gate-money from the regional final against Notts County (over 18,000) I will next season be able to watch the club from all four corners of the ground, with the reopening of the North Bank and Waterloo Road stands.

The ordinary fan (does that mean a regular attendee?) is the one who appreciates the sponsors and sponsors of truly great clubs, and also realizes that while these trophies are not FA Cups they can be life-savers.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL NOBLE,
75 Sherborne Road,
Bushbury,
Wolverhampton.

Cricketing answer

From Mr Robin H. Humphreys

Sir, I see that Clive Rice, captain and stalwart of South Africa's cricket team, is now eligible to play for, and is indeed captain of, Scotland's Benson and Hedges Cup side.

Perhaps Zola Budd should turn to cricket.

Yours faithfully,
R. HUMPHREYS,
33 Elmton Road,
Selly Park,
Birmingham.

Shining example

From Miss M. E. Twist

Sir, Although agreeing with some of David Miller's comments on the need for reorganization of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (April 27), I am amazed that he should say: "Everyone was anxious to see the unrivalled leading performer, the irreproachable Steve Davis, get a walloping."

"Everyone." Who comprises this extraordinary group? The WPBSA? Alex Higgins's fans?

This statement, with its odious favouritism and spite, gives an indication of what is wrong nowadays with English sport, e.g. cricket.

M. E. TWIST.

1 Gardeners Cottages,
Farnham Lane,
Haslemere, Surrey.

Golf in USSR

From Mr John Massey Stewart

Sir, The first golf course in the Soviet Union is now being laid out, according to Tass (April 26). But an earlier golf course, albeit of some holes only, was created in 1960 for President Gherasimov on the shores of Siberia's Lake Baikal. As described in Simon Barnes's Diary (April 30), he never used it nor the villa alongside specially built for him due to the shrewd and acrimonious end (following the U2 incident) of his summit meeting in Paris with Khrushchev. The golf course had gone by the mid-1970s, though the villa still stands.

And before the Revolution, from the late 19th century at least, St Petersburg's British colony had a nine-hole course at Mourino, 12 miles outside the city. Many British families lived in summer and where the Grand Duke Cyril for one learned to play.

Going even further back, there is some evidence that golf clubs were taken to St Petersburg in the 18th century. Perhaps the game was played in Russia even earlier, possibly by some of the many Scottish Makeshin courses on the steppes, for instance?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MASSEY STEWART,
20 Hillway, N6.

Ignorance is bliss

From Mr Lynn Mallet

Sir, As a responsible parent I feel it incumbent upon me to know the whereabouts of my young, and hope that I have raised them well enough to ensure veracity when enquiries are made as to their plans.

I was therefore pleased and thought no ill when my son informed me a short time ago that he had been invited on a cricket tour to Corfu. What am I now to make of this since I learn from Richard Cobb (Diary, April 21) that cricket is no longer played there? Where is my son going for a week with the Nonnuncquam Club? On second thoughts, perhaps it would be better if I did not know.

Yours in perturbation,
LYNN MALLET
25 St Mary's Grove, W4.

Gaelic de Gaulle

From Mr Augustus Young

Sir, If an Irish grandparent qualifies one to play soccer for the Republic of Ireland, General de Gaulle could have played. Historical talent scouts might be disappointed to know that Henry James, whose grandfather hailed from Antrim, does not quite qualify. The regulations are different in Northern Ireland.

Yours sincerely,
AUGUSTUS YOUNG,
5b Belsize Park Gardens, NW3.

Fast finish carries Surrey to victory

By a Special Correspondent

THE OVAL: Surrey (2pts) beat Kent by nine wickets.

Surrey took only 37 minutes and 49 balls to complete a crushing nine-wicket win over Kent in their Benson and Hedges Cup zonal match yesterday morning, narrowly beating a heavy downpour which descended moments after Graeme Clinton had struck the winning boundary.

Clinton finished with a competition-best 121 not out against the county he left in 1978, sharing an unbroken second-wicket stand of 113 with Stewart, who made a powerful, unbeaten 57. Left with 64 runs to make from 10 overs when bad light intervened the previous evening, the pair cruised past Kent's total of 245 for eight with 11 balls to spare.

It was as well for Surrey that the weather did not choose to intervene an hour earlier. Had it done so, the batsmen's decision to leave the job unfinished the previous evening when behind on run-rate could well have rebounded on them.

As it was, Clinton and Stewart again made light work of all the bowlers employed by Chris Cowdrey. Clinton reached his century in 173 minutes off 146 balls and hit a six and nine fours in an increasingly fluent innings.

Kent's beleaguered players were then forced to stand in the pouring rain in front of the pavilion as Robin Hobbs announced his choice of the Gold Award winner, Taylor, for his fine 137 on Tuesday.

KENT 245 for 9 (55 overs: N Taylor 137, G S Clinton not out 121, D M Smith & Elson 56, Extras (6 b, w & n) 16, Total (1 wk, 58.1 overs) 245)

SURREY: 113 for 1 (35.15-155, M A Lynch, D M Ward, J C Richards, T A Grogan, C K Butler, M A Parnham, S T Clarke and M Parnham did not bat. SOWLING: Alyson 10-2-39-0; Elson 10-1-44-1; Penn 10-4-46-2; C S Cowdrey 11-2-39-0; Davis 10-1-0-3-0; G R Cowdrey 2-1-1-0.

Gold Award: N Taylor.
Umpires: D L Evans and R Palmer.

BENSON AND HEDGES CUP TABLES

ZONE A				
Derby	P	W	L	Pts
Derby	1	0	0	0
Nottingham	0	1	0	2
Leeds	0	0	1	0
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0
Leeds	0	0	0	0

ZONE B				
Derby	P	W	L	Pts
Derby	1	0	0	0
Nottingham	0	1	0	2
Leeds	0	0	1	0
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0
Leeds	0	0	0	0

ZONE C				
Derby	P	W	L	Pts
Derby	1	0	0	0
Nottingham	0	1	0	2
Leeds	0	0	1	0
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0
Leeds	0	0	0	0

Lord Bramall named MCC president

By John Woodcock

The next president of MCC, to take office on October 1, will be Field Marshal Lord Bramall. He was nominated by the incumbent, J. J. Warr, at yesterday's annual general meeting of the club.

A member of MCC since 1949, Field Marshal Bramall was Chairman of the Staff from 1979 to 1982 and Chief of the Defence Staff from 1982 to 1985. He is Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, in whose parish Lord's resides.

Bramall handled the attack adroitly and, as a batsman, was in a class by himself. Though he did not score as many runs as anticipated, he left no doubt he was an artist in the making: the 1943 Wisden said, reviewing the Essex season of 1942:

If, in the event, his military career prevented him from becoming better known as a batsman, he did open the innings for the Army at Lord's and has always taken a keen interest in the game. As an artist, it is more with brush and easel that he has scored freely.

He is the third Field Marshal to hold the cricketers' baton. The first was Lord Plumer in 1929-30, the next Lord Alexander of Tunis, whose presidency of MCC in 1955-56 coincided with another controversial tour of Pakistan and led to an offer from Lord Alexander to recall the MCC A team.

Although it is now the Test and County Cricket Board which bears the chief responsibility for such expeditions, MCC, through its stewardship of the International Cricket Conference, still plays a leading role in the councils of world cricket.

As president of MCC, Lord Bramall will have the England team on his time as chairman of ICC he will find a minefield awaiting him, not laid by South Africa but all to do with it.

Madugalle leads again

Colombo (Reuters) — Sri Lanka

has retained Ranjan Madugalle as captain for their tour of England, which starts in July. Madugalle was appointed for the winter visit to Australia, replacing Duleep Mendis after Sri Lanka lost all their six matches in the 1987 World Cup.

Gatting completes formalities for revived Middlesex

By a Special Correspondent

LORD'S: Middlesex (2pts) beat Sussex by five wickets.

Two contrasting half-centuries, one a timely and aggressive unbeaten 56 by Mike Gatting, the other a mature 62 from John Carr, enabled Middlesex to complete an expected victory over Sussex without alarm.

Middlesex have now won all five of their matches this season, and appear a revived force, but their victory over Sussex, who looked desperately limited, was hardly an indicator as to their true worth.

Middlesex resumed yesterday at 52 for one, requiring 121 to win off 33 overs. Fraser, the nightwatchman, departed early on after one handsome off drive. By then, Carr, 34 overnight, had reached his fifty, made in two hours off 87 balls, but he was soon outshone by Gatting's dynamic opening.

The England captain survived a confident early shout for leg-before from Bunting, then unleashed a fearsome square drive for four before taking 12 off one over from Bunting.

The loss of Carr, playing across a well-pitched-up deliv-

ery, did not delay him, but the weather did. Three and three-quarters of an hour's play were lost to rain, with Middlesex 25 runs from victory.

Upon resumption, Gatting reached his half-century, made in 57 balls, before his side lost Brown and Butcher cheaply.

The double success was too late for Sussex and Gatting, who scored the winning run with 7.1 overs to spare, earned Alec Bode's nomination for the Gold Award.

SUSSEX 182 for 9 (55 overs: Iwan Khan 71, N J Latham 55).
MIDDLESEX: W N Slack b Bunting 15, J D Carr b Latham 62, A C Fraser c Gould b Bunting 56, M W Gatting not out 56, R D Bunter c Gould b Bunting 5, G D Rose c Ashworth b Smith 6, G W Parnham not out 5, Extras (15 b, w & n) 16.
Total (5 wks, 47.5 overs) 182.
J E Embury, N F Williams, S P Hughes and N G Coward did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-55, 2-91, 3-149, 4-164, 5-173.
SOWLING: Iwan 11-1-26-0; Bunting 11-0-2-0; Latham 11-0-1-0; Khan 11-0-1-0; Parnham 11-0-1-0; A P Wells 0-5-0-0.
Gold Award: M W Gatting.
Umpires: D J Cornett and J H Hampshire.

Although the Combined Universities did well to restrict Somerset to 182 for nine in the Benson and Hedges Cup game at The Parks yesterday the target proved too stiff for the undergraduates, who were beaten by 70 runs in a game restricted to 41 overs.

The weather cleared in time for a start after an early lunch and Atherton's decision to ask the county side to bat brought early dividends with Roebuck and Felton dismissed inside the first eight overs.

However, a partnership of 73 in 20 overs between Roebuck and Waugh, the Australian Test all-rounder, put the innings back on course and Waugh provided the required acceleration, although the bowling remained steady and the fielding athletic. Waugh reached 79 before he was out just before the end of the innings.

O'Gorman and Atherton threatened for the Universities in a second wicket stand worth 62 but after Waugh had dismissed them both the end came quickly.

Crowe to face Botham

Last year he made an unbeaten century in a rain-rained match.

Gordon Parsons, who took seven for 16 for Warwickshire against Cambridge University last month, is included in the 12 for their first home championship match, against Yorkshire, which is being disrupted by the final place, with the off-spinner, Pierson.

For the present, this probably narrows the options for England's selectors down to either Pierson or Middlesex's Russell, of Gloucestershire, or possibly Richards, of Surrey.

French, not the luckiest of cricketers, has set his sights on being chosen for the winter tour of Sri Lanka and India.

"Although this is the start of the season, I decided it would be the best time to have the operation done," French said.

"If I cannot perform to the best of my ability I want to have the finger seen to as it is constantly getting in the way."

"It caused me discomfort in pre-season training and as I hope to have 10 years left in the game I do not want to jeopardize my future."

French, who consulted Mervyn Silver, the England manager, before making his decision, plays his last match for Nottinghamshire before the operation this Sunday. Scott, his deputy at Trent Bridge, will play in the championship match against Lancashire, starting today.

Matches Played 30th April 1988

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YACHTING

Warden-Owen in the right frame of mind

A win in the pre-regatta fleet race put Eddie Warden-Owen, of Britain, in good heart yesterday for the \$150,000 Grand Prix Cup match racing series which starts in St. Maxime, France, today (a Special Correspondent writes).

In four days of round-robins each of the 10 boats races the other nine, scoring a point for a win, and the top four go into the semi-finals on Wednesday.

Warden-Owen's first opponent is Jennifer Isler, wife of Peter, who is also skippering an American crew. Mrs Isler has a crew of five fellow-American women dinghy sailors and Anne Comber, a top French 470 crew.

Warden-Owen then has to sail against Rod Davis, another Californian but now resident in New Zealand for that country's America's Cup challenge, and the Australian, Peter Gilmour.

CYCLING

French team may be run off the road

A planned £200,000 "invasion" of British professional cycling by a top French-based team is facing defeat before it has even begun, according to a report in the competition (Peter Bryan writes).

Last week, Z-Peugeot revealed that its team for the Milk Race, led by the former race winner, Joey McLaughlin, would be co-managed by Halofors. But, even before a formal announcement of Halofors' involvement in Paris last week, British teams sponsored, hearing of the link, had registered their criticism of the Anglo-French tie-up.

Now, following pressure from some of the major British team sponsors, it is understood that the Professional Cycling Association has been asked to ban the Z-Peugeot-Halofors squad from competing in the Michelin series of televised city centre races.

EVENING RACING

Cheltenham

Going: good to soft

5.15 (2m 41y) 1, Sweet Rascal (Dr P Jones, 100-30); 2, Crystal Star (11-4 fav); 3, May Day (11-4); 4, Pm mack 5-4; 5, Pm mack 5-4; 6, Pm mack 5-4; 7, Pm mack 5-4; 8, Pm mack 5-4; 9, Pm mack 5-4; 10, Pm mack 5-4; 11, Pm mack 5-4; 12, Pm mack 5-4; 13, Pm mack 5-4; 14, Pm mack 5-4; 15, Pm mack 5-4; 16, Pm mack 5-4; 17, Pm mack 5-4; 18, Pm mack 5-4; 19, Pm mack 5-4; 20, Pm mack 5-4; 21, Pm mack 5-4; 22, Pm mack 5-4; 23, Pm mack 5-4; 24, Pm mack 5-4; 25, Pm mack 5-4; 26, Pm mack 5-4; 27, Pm mack 5-4; 28, Pm mack 5-4; 29, Pm mack 5-4; 30, Pm mack 5-4; 31, Pm mack 5-4; 32, Pm mack 5-4; 33, Pm mack 5-4; 34, Pm mack 5-4; 35, Pm mack 5-4; 36, Pm mack 5-4; 37, Pm mack 5-4; 38, Pm mack 5-4; 39, Pm mack 5-4; 40, Pm mack 5-4; 41, Pm mack 5-4; 42, Pm mack 5-4; 43, Pm mack 5-4; 44, Pm mack 5-4; 45, Pm mack 5-4; 46, Pm mack 5-4; 47, Pm mack 5-4; 48, Pm mack 5-4; 49, Pm mack 5-4; 50, Pm mack 5-4; 51, Pm mack 5-4; 52, Pm mack 5-4; 53, Pm mack 5-4; 54, Pm mack 5-4; 55, Pm mack 5-

European ban on English clubs is likely to continue

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

The prospect of English clubs being readmitted to Europe next season is rapidly diminishing. Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, stated yesterday that the government is not prepared to offer the reassurances that are being sought by UEFA if the ban imposed three years ago is to be lifted.

The potential candidates (Luton Town and Manchester United in the UEFA Cup and Wimbledon in the Cup Winners' Cup) can blame the League and their fellow clubs for blocking their path. It may not be cleared even if the behaviour of England's supporters during the European championship is impeccable.

Jacques Georges, the president of UEFA who is to meet Moynihan in nine days, has insisted that the government must accept responsibility for clubs that perform abroad. "If not, it is very likely that the countries in which the teams want to play will not accept it either."

The Minister will carry "some good and some bad" information into the discussion which is to take place at Wembley after the FA Cup final. The good, that "great progress has been made" in the war against domestic hooliganism, is regarded by UEFA as encouraging but irrelevant.

The bad, which reveals loopholes in security measures, will prompt Moynihan to confirm that the government is still not yet satisfied that all the necessary preventative steps have been taken. "Many clubs have made determined efforts," he said yesterday. "But some have been very slow."

"In February last year the Football Trust agreed to provide grants for third and fourth division clubs to install close circuit television. Three have not even applied for it, although I urged them to do so earlier this year, and eight

others have been sitting on offers of grants for six months. One was offered a grant a year ago and is still seeking quotes from companies to install the system."

Moynihan is equally concerned about the failure to implement a reciprocal membership scheme, whereby the card holders of one club would be permitted to visit other grounds.

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The warrior's medals still shine Lillee is fresh for the test

By Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent

Imagine Frank Sinatra doing a surprise turn on New Faces and you have some conception of what is billed for Northampton today. Traditionally one of county cricket's dowdier venues, the County Ground is to be given over to something which mixes glamour, nostalgia and curiosity. Dennis Lillee is about to make his championship debut.

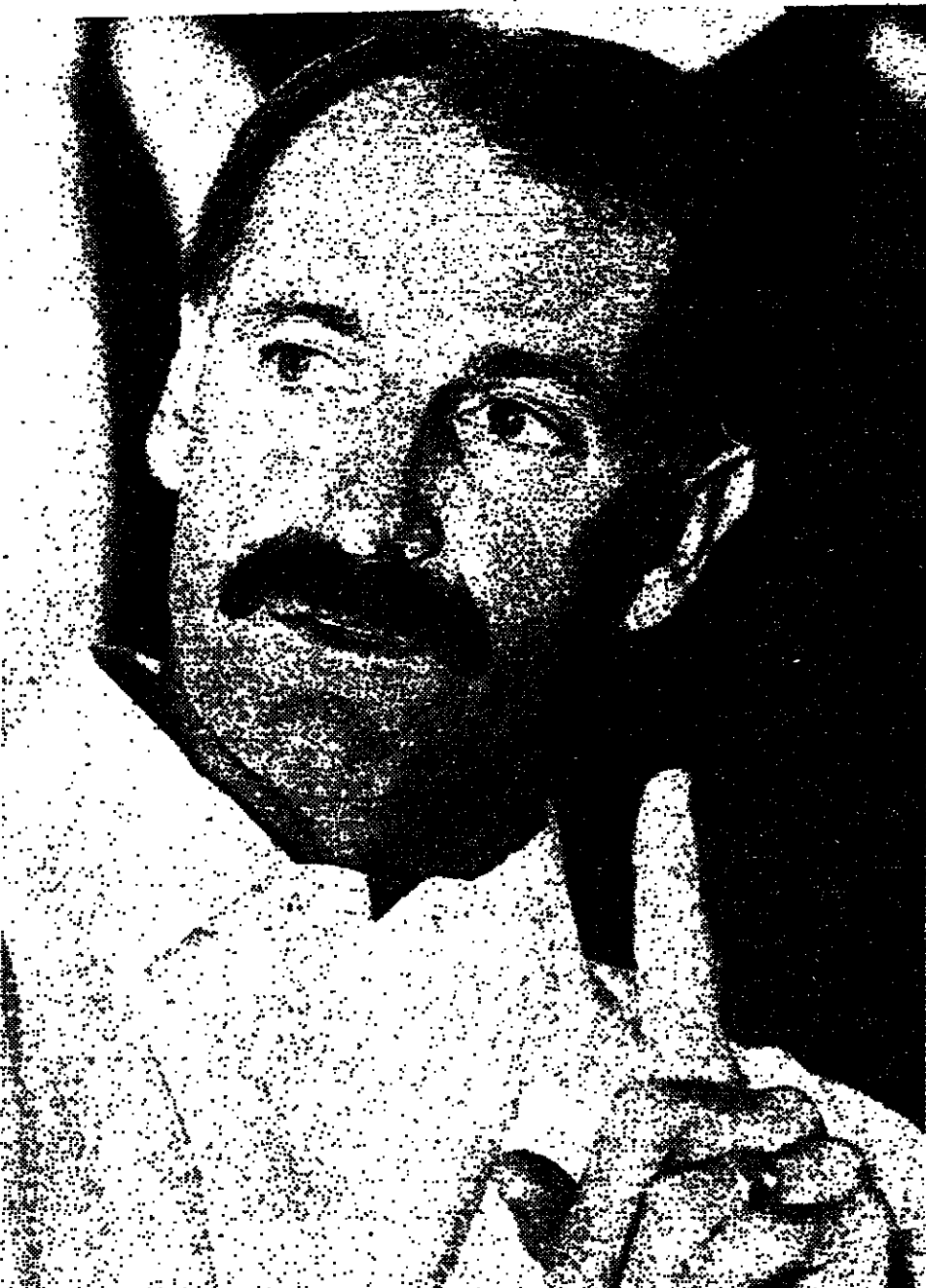
The old warrior may be going on 39 but his medals still shine. He looks distinctly greyer than when I last saw him bowl, shortly before his official retirement four years ago, yet the figure is still lithe, the eyes still flash and the spirit still burns.

Lillee will play against Gloucestershire today, weather and a slight chest infection permitting. The salient question, both for him and Northamptonshire, is why? The club, after all, has a very respectable overseas fast bowler in Winston Davis while Lillee would seem to be about 15 years past the point of needing to prove himself in the punishing routine of the county game.

The club, unsurprisingly, found it easier to answer. In short, they imagined they might end up without an import after West Indies had chosen their touring team, so they drew up a short-list of three replacements. Lillee was at the top. "We never thought he would come, but he was positive from the start," Steve Coverdale, the manager, said.

The deal, which includes backing from Gestetner, took four months to put together and the club's chief concern now is to stress that it is not a publicity stunt.

"We have had an incredible local reaction and a lot of new members. But the decision was taken on playing grounds," Coverdale said. "What the cynics forget is that 18 of our players are 25 or under. A season with Dennis Lillee



Making a point: Dennis Lillee, on the eve of his scheduled county championship debut.

could do them all enormous good."

Lillee, who has agreed to play 10 championship matches and up to 15 one-day games, at first explained his extraordinary comeback only vaguely. "I got talked into playing again in Australia," he said. Later, he revealed that Allan Border, Australia's captain, had been the one doing the persuading but the romantic notion of adding to his 70 Tests and 355 wickets is not, apparently, on the agenda.

He denies he is doing it for the money. "I am not a

millionaire but I won't struggle for the rest of my life. I don't need to do this, I am doing it because I want to. Some ex-players think I am mad but I don't care about that. I am apprehensive, certainly. I was very nervous when I started playing club cricket again back home."

Lillee has left his wife, Helen, in charge of his diverse business activities while he puts his reputation on the line one last time. Interestingly, he says he was shocked by the on-field conduct during his Australian season with Tasmania. "It was far worse than I have ever known it"

and adds: "Blokes were having a go all the time but it wasn't until I told a batsman where to go that the umpires stepped in to report someone. I largely blame them for the current behaviour problem. They are the ones in charge. If they warn offenders quickly enough they will soon clear it up."

Someone asked him if this meant he had mellowed. "Oh, probably not," he replied, obviously a shade concerned. He probably hasn't, either, but I suspect he will still be as cordial off the field as he could be crabby on it.

Lapping up the pace lift of today

By John Blunden

The scene is Aintree, not the Aintree of Red Rum fame, but the motor racing circuit that used to run alongside it. The year is 1959, and Jack Brabham is out there in front, winning the British Grand Prix with his Cooper-Climax and on his way to his first world championship.

Other Coopers, BRMs, Aston Martins and Lotus-Climaxes are in hot pursuit, but suddenly the familiar scene changes. There is an interloper, a standard road-going 1988 Audi-Quattro, which threads its way through the pack, using the power of its turbo-charged engine and the extra grip from four-wheel drive and the latest fat tyres to steal a surprise victory.

This is the scenario of the evocative 40-second television commercial which Shell Oils is using to promote its Gemini brand — a clever piece of filmmaking in which footage from Aintree has been amalgamated with new material shot at Snetterton (quaintly "dressed" to look like Aintree) with authentic but new historic Formula One cars.

The message — how much the performance of cars and multi-grade oils has changed over the years — comes across well, even though it is stretching things a bit to suggest that the high-performance car of today would actually have won the 1959 race. It would not, but it would not have been last, either.

You have to move to Silverstone to get things into perspective. A time of 1min 55sec is good for the Quattro around the three-mile circuit on which this year's British Grand Prix, sponsored by Shell Oils, takes place on July 18. This "time" equates to around 1min 50sec on the



Scheckter caused accident "old" course which was used until 1973, when Woodcock Corner (subsequently slowed by chicanes and most recently by a tight S-bend) was virtually "flat in fifth" and perilously quick, as Jody Scheckter proved that when he lost control of his McLaren and initiated a multi-car accident.

In 1950, Silverstone had hosted the very first race of the Formula One world championship. It was won by Dr Giuseppe Farina, whose Alfa Romeo started on pole position. But had the 1988 Quattro well have headed the line-up? It would almost certainly have seen it into the first corner with a comfortable lead.

By 1954, the Audi would have started from the third row, by 1958 from the fifth row, and by 1963 it would have been last on the grid, but by 1973, as the Quattro was being developed, it was already a contender. Clark, who scored one of his famous runaway victories in his Lotus-Climax that day, would probably have lapped the Audi driver about 10 times during the course of the 82-lap race.

These days, the gap between a winning grid position and a typical high performance road car is wider than ever. Whereas in 1950, a Formula One Alfa Romeo would lap Silverstone about 12 m.p.h. quicker than a Jaguar XK120 competing in a production touring car race, last July Nigel Mansell's fastest race lap of 153 m.p.h. in his Williams-Ford was 47 m.p.h. quicker than the touring car record set by Wia Percy in his Ford Sierra RS Cosworth later the same day, and about 63 m.p.h. quicker than a Quattro straight out of the showroom would have averaged.

Nevertheless, today's high-performance road cars stand in a manner which the racing drivers of yesterday could only dream about, and they are getting better all the time. Silverstone runs a pair of Jaguars as part of its emergency fleet which follows the race for the first lap in case of problems. They are not letting on just how fast these cars are, but more than once they have had to be eased back in order to avoid getting embroiled in the race... just as in that television advertisement.

Foreign players restriction will benefit British clubs

By Stuart Jones

David Will, the lone Briton responsible for restricting the number of foreign players who may represent clubs in European competitions, believes UEFA's new rule will improve the domestic game. Although he appreciates the immediate effect on the top clubs might be detrimental, he feels the outcome should eventually be beneficial.

Will, a Scottish lawyer and a member of the governing body's executive committee, he joined UEFA's legal representatives at St Andrews on Monday. The meeting was held to find a solution to the

UEFA's ploy might be to revive Britain side

By Dennis Signy and Roddy Forsyth

The UEFA decision to limit the number of "foreign" players to represent clubs in the three European competitions may be a ploy to revive a Great Britain side.

This viewpoint came yesterday from Terry Venables, the manager of Tottenham Hotspur, whose experience also includes importing foreign players for Barcelona. "If we had a Great Britain team that would counter the decision wouldn't it?" Venables asked. "It would just mean people having to give up a bit of power." Venables said people abroad saw England, Scotland and Wales as different countries. "They can't understand our different view."

Although Graham Kelly, the Football League secretary,

problem which will be posed when players are given freedom of movement within the European Community in 1991.

If UEFA had not taken action, it was felt that the richest clubs in Europe would then have monopolized all the titles on offer at home and abroad. There was nothing to prevent Juventus, for instance, from acquiring a side that included the world's greatest talent and not a single Italian.

"It is better to protect the future development of young footballers in each country

rather than to have all of our clubs over-stuffed by foreign players," Will says. "We have been looking for something like this for some time and, having been involved in it, I thought long and hard about it."

"It is far better to agree to this than to comply with the freedom of movement within the European Community. I realize that it will cause complications for our game in the short term, but I am convinced that it is going to be for the best for the home associations."

Those who are on the edge of contention for the English and Scottish trophies stand to gain the most. The recent overwhelming superiority of a handful of clubs (Arsenal, Everton, and particularly Liverpool in the England, Celtic and Rangers in Scotland) is likely to be lessened.

The leagues on either side of the Irish border also could be strengthened. Since leading clubs on the mainland will no longer view either Northern Ireland or the Republic as a source of comparatively inexpensive gifts, all but the best players may now have little choice other than to remain at home.

Will agrees that "there is a small problem with Wales," where there is no national league. Cardiff City, Swansea City and Wrexham, who compete for honours in England and in the principality, will expose an obvious anomaly should they be successful. UEFA plans to "iron that one out."

Further versions of the script have been submitted to the trio for their comments and the BBC is understood to have noted their views.

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HP football

Fulham, the third division football club, are to offer their supporters the opportunity to purchase season tickets for next season by monthly instalments.

For English clubs, it could also be the last.

Mile film will still be made

By John Goodbody

A dramatized series on the first sub-four-minute mile, is to go ahead, despite protests about the script from Sir Roger Bannister, Chris Chataway and Chris Brasher, the three athletes involved in the race, run at Oxford 34 years ago today.

The original script of the film series, a co-production between the BBC and three Australian broadcasting companies, was last month criticized by Brasher as being "the most awful, inaccurate, inept and clichéd I have ever read".

"We are seen as part of a daunted elite with upper-class voices, who hunt hares on horseback and drink champagne with pretty girls before races."

The series has been written by David Williamson, who scripted the film *Gallipoli*. It is intended to dramatize perhaps the most celebrated moment of British sport in the 1950s, in the same way that *Chariots of Fire* brought the story of Harold Abrahams and Eric Liddell, sprinters at the 1924 Olympics, to the screen.

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Olympic contender fails his Badminton examination

By Jenny McArthur

The Whitbread championships at Badminton, which begin today, are the main selection trial for the Seoul Olympics. Fitness and soundness are the two qualities which Henrietta Knight, the chairman of the selectors, and her committee will be looking for this weekend.

The cross-country course in Seoul is built on a hard, clay-like base with only a thin covering of grass. This, together with the steepchase course, which is on sand, would quickly expose any soundness problems. Five horses failed to pass yesterday's veterinary inspection, one of which, Jimmy Cricket, to be ridden by Diana Clapham, was in the reckoning for the Olympics after his third place at Burghley last year.

Chief among the Olympic contenders competing this week are Virginia Leng, the reigning World and European champion, and Ian Stark, the European and World team gold medal winner and the current holder of the Whitbread Trophy after his win on Sir Wattle in 1986 — last year's event was cancelled

because the ground was waterlogged. Hard on their heels come Lucinda Green (Mins Lincoln and Willy B), Rachel Hunt (Aloaf and Friday Fox) and Rodney Powell (The Irishman).

Leng is riding Master Craftsman and Murphy Himself, owned by Citibank Savings. Neither horse has competed at Badminton before but this does not make

Simon Barnes on Badminton page 41

Leng, the winner in 1985, any less of a threat.

Stark knows exactly what to expect of the Edinburgh Woolen Mill's Sir Wattle, his partner at the 1987 European Championships and the 1986 World Championships. But Glen Burnie, an impressive, big striding horse will be having his first major test since Burghley in 1986.

While Stark and Leng are seeking a second Badminton win Green is aiming for a record seventh with SR International's Mins Lincoln, the winner of Chatsworth last October and of Crookham in March. The only other rider to

have won more than three times is Captain Mark Phillips — he gained his fourth title in 1981 — but he is missing this year's event because of a leg injury.

Hunt, the runner-up in 1986 on Pilet and Powell are both having a first Badminton outing with their horses but have first class credentials. Hunt's Aloaf helped win the team gold medal at last year's European Championship. The Irishman won Bramham last year and was fifth at Burghley, over an unusually demanding course.

In the absence of New Zealand's Olympic gold medal winner Mark Todd and the United States dual world champion, Bruce Davidson, the main foreign opposition will come from Todd's compatriot, Tinks Pottinger.

The British Olympic team will have one advantage. After completing Saturday's cross-country course — which Colonel Frank Weldon, the designer, has made more difficult than usual — they are unlikely to be intimidated by anything they encounter in Seoul.

Woosnam's chance to atone

By Mitchell Platts
Golf Correspondent

The premature return of Ken Brown to the European scene poses an additional problem for Ian Woosnam as the Epsom Grand Prix begins on the St Pierre course in Chesham today.

Brown tees off against the Swedish player, Magnus Persson, and if successful he will move through to a second-round encounter against Woosnam, the No. 1 seed.

It would be an intriguing contest with Woosnam desperate to rediscover the form which made him the leading player in the world in 1987 and Brown equally determined to once more prove his prowess in Europe.

This time 12 months ago Woosnam met with an early defeat when Sam Torrance clinically moved past him 3 and 2. But on that occasion the 5R 4½m Welshman had no reason to be too alarmed.

By then he had launched an astonishing year which was to turn him into a millionaire. He had won both the Jersey

concentrated effort on the European circuit. Brown said: "I've not played as much in Europe as I would have liked over the last four years but that was because I wanted to establish myself on the American Tour."

"I would like to think that I am a much better player than say four, or even two years ago because of playing in America and I hope to prove that over the next few weeks."

These short distance match-play tests for the Epsom title have produced two Swedish triumphs with Ove Selberg winning in 1986 and Mats Lanner succeeding him as champion 12 months ago. So even though Nick Faldo and Bernhard Langer, the third and fifth seeds, are the likely favourites it would not be a surprise if another new winner came through especially following the successes of David Whelan (Barcelona), David Llewellyn (Biarritz), Derrick Cooper (Madrid) and the Australian, Mike Harwood (Portugal) already this season.

Lyle's putting power, page 40

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This year Woosnam has missed four successive half-way cuts in the United States, including a disappointing Masters debut, and his official prize winnings amount to little more than the £1,000 he earned for a down-the-field finish in the Majorcan Open.

Woosnam said: "There is only way to prove to all the whisperers that I'm no one-year wonder and that is by winning. And I will win again — soon."

Brown, too, eventually had a disappointing first Masters and on returning from Augusta he altered his schedule in order to launch a more

SPORT IN BRIEF

Number up
John Pendlebury, the Halifax Rugby League Club loose forward, could be disciplined for playing in the Wembley final last weekend without a numbered jersey.

Opie appeal
Lisa Opie, the British women's squash rackets champion and world No. 2, is today to challenge a £475 fine imposed on her by the Women's Squash Rackets Association for alleged swearing and bad behaviour during the Bovis Homes Invitation semi-finals at Welwyn in February.

Prize purse
The Woolwich Masters bowls tournament will have world-record prize-money of £28,000 this year. The tournament will be held in Worthing from May 27 to 29.

Twist of fate
Jean-Patrick Lescaur, France's Rugby Union stand-off half, undergoes a knee operation this Sunday. He will be sidelined for five months.

Slalom chosen
The slalom event will be included in the canoe programme for the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona.

Amateur handicap
Golfers with a handicap of one have had to be balloted out of the Amateur Championship for the first time, following a near-record entry of 391.

Cash charity
Two most recent Wimbledon men's champions, Pat Cash and Boris Becker, will play free for charity in the Wising Well Tennis Classic on June 13 at the David Lloyd Racquet Club at Heston. The event should raise £100,000 for the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.

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